

*Altered States in the Palmetto State:
Statistical Indicators
of Illegal Drug Use*

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INTRODUCTION

Altered States in the Palmetto State: Statistical Indicators of Illegal Drug Use is designed to provide information about the nature and extent of illegal drug use in South Carolina. The intent is to provide empirical indicators for a problem which is too often described on the basis of perception and anecdotal data, in a straightforward, non-technical manner. Hopefully this report will serve to better inform citizens, policy makers and others about the nature and extent of illegal drug use in our state.

Several agencies provided data for this report: the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) and the Budget & Control Board Office of Research and Statistics (ORS). Copies of this report or information regarding this publication can be obtained by writing or sending electronic mail requests to:

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This report can also be accessed at the South Carolina Department of Public Safety's website for the Office of Justice Programs Statistical Analysis Center at:
<http://www.scdps.org/ojp/statistics.asp>

Measuring Illegal Drug Use

Illegal drug abuse is an issue that has been at the forefront of public policy for decades. Since the “War on Drugs” was first declared, tremendous amounts of time, effort and money, at all levels of government, have been expended in its prosecution. Unfortunately, policy decisions have by necessity often been made in the absence of reliable empirical data, leaving little recourse to reliance upon anecdotal information and “war stories.” The intent of this report is to provide an empirical basis of information concerning the scope and nature of illegal drug use in South Carolina.

The nature of illegal drug use is such that it is difficult, if not impossible, to measure its occurrence with any level of precision. Both consumers and suppliers take great pains to avoid detection, and unlike crimes which involve an individual victim, no one involved in the crime has any reason to report it. Consequently, attempts to measure this problem are bound to be far from perfect. As part of the effort to provide a balanced perspective, this report uses multiple data sources to provide as diverse a set of illegal drug use indicators as possible. Since illegal drug use is usually detected and dealt with by law enforcement, most of the information comes from criminal justice sources. However, data from other fields such as medical records and drug use surveys were also reviewed and included in this report.

Methodological Notes

Drug Offenses: Within South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System (SCIBRS) data, illegal drug activity was defined as an arrest for either drug/narcotic law violations or drug/narcotic equipment violations. SCIBRS captures up to three offenses per arrest. Any arrest which included a drug offense among the arrest offense was defined as drug related, regardless of the which offense was the most serious. Court Docket Record (CDR) codes were used to identify General Sessions Court drug offense convictions and dispositions as well as drug offense admissions for SCDPPPS. SCDC records inmate offenses with both CDR codes and their own internal offense codes.

Type of Offense: Charges for drug offenses vary according to the circumstances involved. SCIBRS records eight types of illegal activity associated with drug law violations: buying or receiving, cultivating or manufacturing or publishing, distributing or selling, exploiting children, operating or promoting or assisting, possessing or concealing, transporting or transmitting or importing and using or consuming. Each CDR code records the specific circumstances of the offense, such as possession, possession with intent to distribute, trafficking, etc., as defined by state statute.

Specific Drugs: SCIBRS identifies sixteen illegal drug categories. Some CDR codes identify specific drugs in great detail; however other CDR codes combine more than one drug under a single criminal offense, such as possession of crack, crank, ice or methamphetamine.

Calculating rates:

The method of calculating rates is illustrated by the following equation:

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Arrests, Hospital Discharges, etc}}{\text{Population or Sub-population}} \times 10,000$$

All rates in this report are expressed as the rate per 10,000 unit of population, unless otherwise stated.

Data sources: South Carolina arrest data were taken from SCIBRS, which was made available for this report by SLED. Population estimates used to calculate arrest and other rates for the total population and sub-populations of interest were provided by ORS. Court filing data were taken from on-line South Carolina Judicial Department (SCJD) statistical reports. Data files containing drug admissions and drug testing outcomes were provided by both SCDC and SCDPPPS. From the State Data Warehouse, ORS provided data reports concerning drug related in-patient discharges and drug related emergency room discharges. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) periodically conducts the National Drug Use and Health Survey (NSDUH) to, among other functions, make estimates of illegal drug use on both the national and individual state levels. NSDUH information was taken from on-line reports.

Data limitations/caveats:

Some information is reported by looking at multiple fields within a record. Since SCIBRS records information concerning up to three offenses per arrest, arrests for drug law violations or drug equipment violations may occur in association with each other as well as with seemingly unrelated offenses. These situations, in combination with missing data, often result in totals that seemingly “don’t add up.” Footnotes are used throughout the report as a means of providing as detailed an explanation of such circumstances as possible. Also, arrest data for 2005 were incomplete and therefore are not included in trend analyses.

The results of the SCIBRS analysis in this report may not match previously published crime reports. This is due both to the inclusion of arrests for drug equipment crimes and the inclusion of all arrests that include a drug offense regardless of the presence of other offenses. This is in contrast to some crime reports which use the “hierarchy rule” of counting only the most serious offense. However, information concerning the type of drug involved and the type of illegal drug activity associated with the crime is limited to the most serious drug charge.

Disposition and conviction data concerning drug offenses represent only cases that were heard in General Sessions Court. Cases involving juveniles are usually heard in Family Court and less serious offenses involving adults may be heard in Magistrate Court. As a result, the disposition and conviction data in this report do not provide a comprehensive overview of judicial indicators.

Population estimates by race were not always available in such a manner as to make calculation of rates for each race practical. Therefore victimization and offender rate comparisons are made on the basis of White and Non-White (Asian, Black and Native American). SCIBRS defines ethnicity in terms of Hispanic or Non-Hispanic, independent of race. Due to recent changes in the state's Hispanic population in recent years, specifically rapid growth, analyses concerning ethnicity were limited to data from 2004 forward.

Ages were sometimes entered into SCIBRS as a range rather than as a single value. Seemingly incongruous age ranges; e.g., 10 – 25 were treated as missing data as were age ranges that crossed age categories of interest. Age ranges were excluded for purposes of determining median ages.

Data included in this report were reported for both the state fiscal and calendar years. The state fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30, and is referred to by the year in which it ends. For example, Fiscal Year 2007 refers to the period of time ranging from July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. This is abbreviated by using FY followed by the last two digits of the year in which the fiscal year ended. Calendar years are simply referred to by their two or four digit numerical label. Also, there are occasions when the percentages listed in table columns do not add up to exactly 100%. This is due to the numerical rounding procedures used, or the nature of information presented, and is not indicative of an error in calculation. These situations are noted in the footnotes throughout the report.

Drug Arrests

Drug arrests constitute an important indicator of illegal drug use. Arrest data provide extensive information concerning the scope and nature of illegal drug use. Information concerning a variety of circumstances associated with the offense, the illegal drug involved, the demographic characteristics of those arrested and the jurisdictions in which the offense occurred are readily available from SCIBRS arrest data. Arrest data are collected on all persons processed by arrest, apprehension, warrant service, citation or ticket, regardless of the seriousness of the offense.

Although arrests are an important indicator of illegal drug use, there are limitations that should be noted. Since illegal drug use is rarely if ever reported in the absence of an arrest, only those drug use, possession or transaction incidents that are detected by law enforcement are reported, excluding the universe of undetected drug law violations. Given that, it is important to understand that the volume of drug arrests and associated characteristics of those involved reflect not only illegal drug practices but also law enforcement practice and policy.

Though a seemingly straightforward proposition, arrests can be measured in a variety of ways. For this report, all arrests involving a drug charge were included. The definition of drug arrests was expanded further to include arrests for drug equipment offenses. Since arrest data for 2001 were incomplete, they were excluded from any trend analyses.

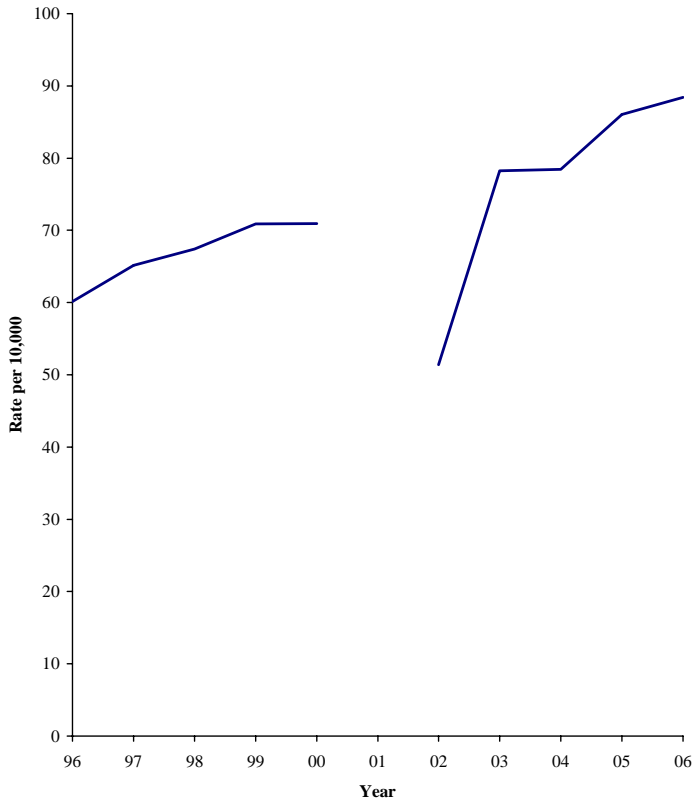
The highest annual drug arrest rate was 88.4 per 10,000 in 2006. The drug arrest rate has increased 46.8% from 1996 through 2006.

**DRUG ARRESTS
1996 - 2006**

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	22,838	60.2	
1997	25,141	65.1	+8.3%
1998	26,419	67.4	+3.5%
1999	28,174	70.9	+5.2%
2000	28,536	70.9	0.0%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	21,103	51.4	-27.6%
2003	32,454	78.3	+52.3%
2004	32,932	78.4	+0.2%
2005	36,609	86.0	+9.7%
2006	38,211	88.4	+2.8%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002.
Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Drug Arrest Rate



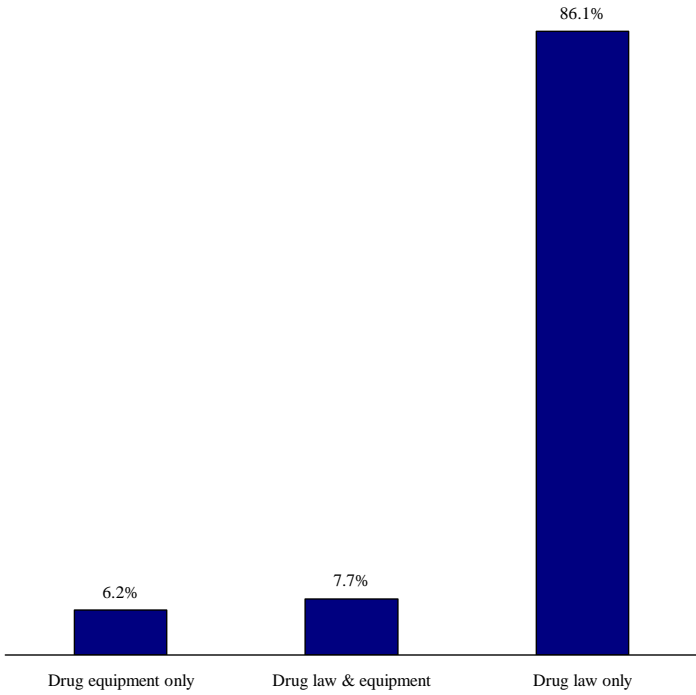
Arrests for drug law violations accounted for 86.1% of drug arrests, arrests for drug equipment violations accounted for 6.2%. Arrests involving both drug law violations and drug equipment violations made up 7.7% of drug arrests.

**DRUG ARRESTS BY OFFENSE
1996 - 2006**

Offense	Number	Percent
Drug equipment only	19,620	6.2%
Drug law & equipment	24,437	7.7%
Drug law only	271,882	86.1%
Total	315,939	100.0%

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Drug Arrests by Offense 1996 - 2006



Personal use offenses accounted for 76.8% of the illegal activities associated with drug arrests.

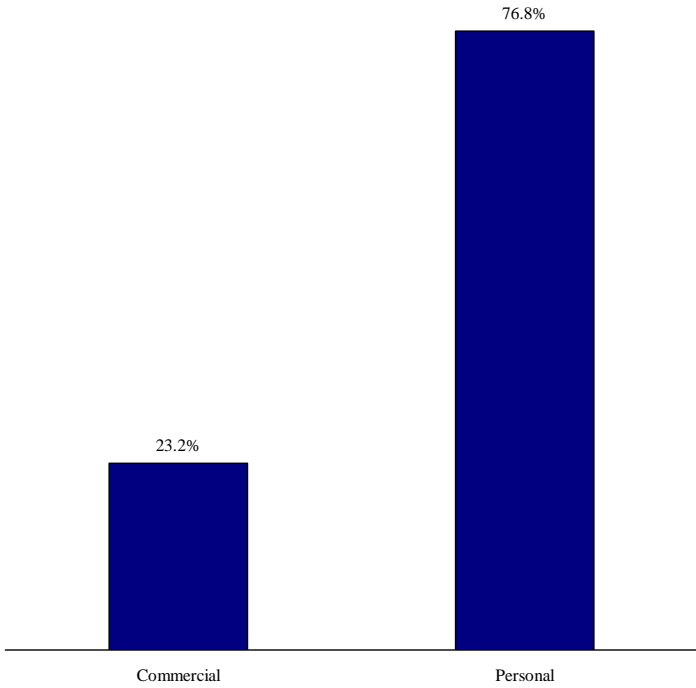
**DRUG ARRESTS BY TYPE
DRUG ACTIVITY
1996 - 2006**

Type Activity	Number	Percent
Commercial	68,666	23.2%
Buy/Receive	1,825	0.6%
Cultivate/Mfg/Publish	2,747	0.9%
Distribute/Sell	57,128	19.3%
Exploit Children	157	0.1%
Operating/ Assisting	241	0.1%
Transport/Import	6,568	2.2%
Personal Use	227,653	76.8%
Possession	223,689	75.5%
Use/Consume	3,964	1.3%
Total	296,319	100.0%

Notes: Categories in bold are major groupings, categories in regular type are sub-groupings. The categories Commercial and Personal Use were constructed for the purpose of this report and are not a standard SCIBRS category. The sub-group Distribute/Sell includes possession with intent to distribute. The sub-group Possession includes simple possession. The 19,620 drug equipment only offenses do not have a drug activity listed and were not included in this table.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Drug Arrests by Type Activity 1996 - 2006



The commercial drug offense arrest rate decreased 19.6% from 1996 to 2006.

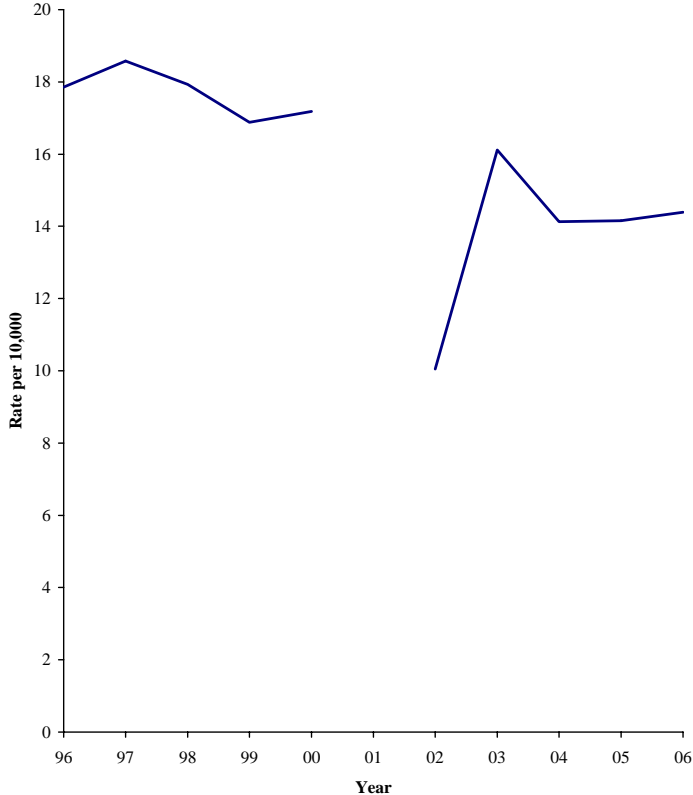
**COMMERCIAL DRUG ARRESTS
1996 - 2006**

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	6,779	17.9	
1997	7,170	18.6	+4.0%
1998	7,028	17.9	-3.5%
1999	6,711	16.9	-5.8%
2000	6,912	17.2	+1.7%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	4,128	10.1	-41.5%
2003	6,682	16.1	+60.3%
2004	5,933	14.1	-12.3%
2005	6,023	14.2	+0.2%
2006	6,217	14.4	+1.6%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002. The category Commercial was constructed for the purpose of this report and is not a standard SCIBRS category.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Commercial Drug Arrest Rate



The drug equipment arrest rate increased 245.8% from 1996 to 2006.

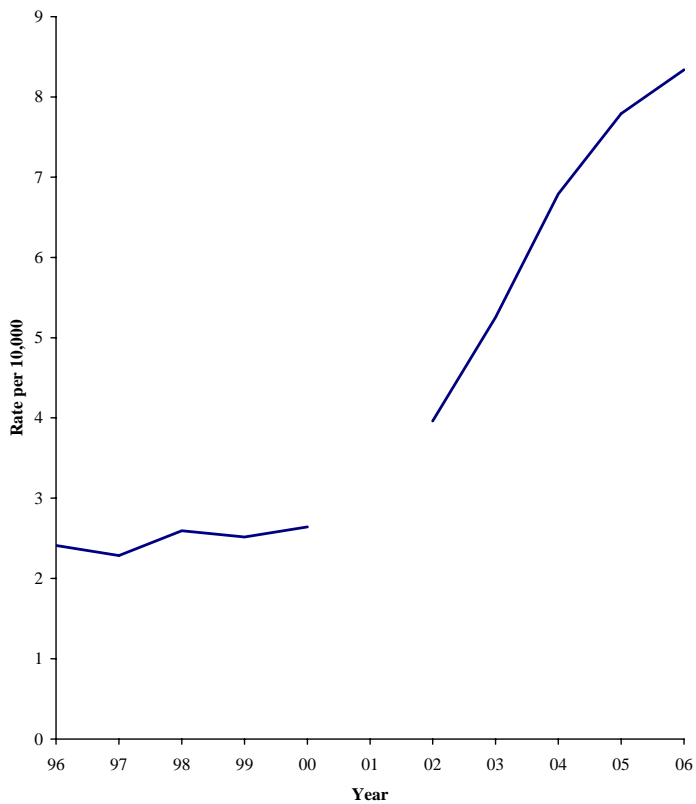
**DRUG EQUIPMENT ARRESTS
1996 - 2006**

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	915	2.4	
1997	883	2.3	-5.1%
1998	1,017	2.6	+13.4%
1999	1,001	2.5	-2.9%
2000	1,063	2.6	+4.9%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	1,628	4.0	+50.0%
2003	2,179	5.3	+32.6%
2004	2,850	6.8	+29.2%
2005	3,315	7.8	+14.8%
2006	3,603	8.3	+7.0%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Drug Equipment Arrest Rate



The personal use drug offense arrest rate increased 64.7% from 1996 to 2006.

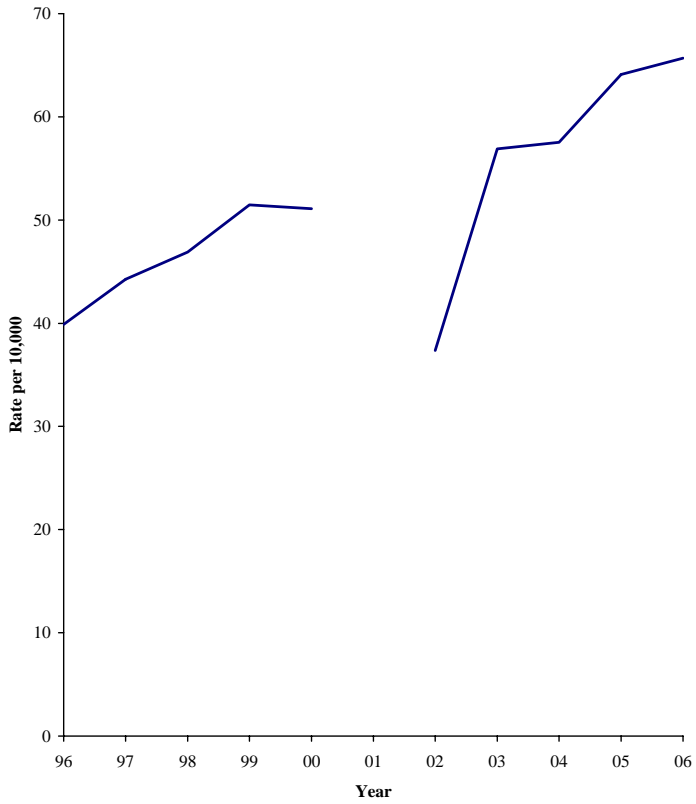
**PERSONAL USE DRUG ARRESTS
1996 - 2006**

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	15,144	39.9	
1997	17,088	44.3	+11.0%
1998	18,374	46.9	+5.9%
1999	20,462	51.5	+9.8%
2000	20,561	51.1	-0.7%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	15,347	37.4	-26.9%
2003	23,593	56.9	+52.2%
2004	24,149	57.5	+1.1%
2005	27,271	64.1	+11.4%
2006	28,391	65.7	+2.5%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002. The category Personal Use was constructed for the purpose of this report and is not a standard SCIBRS category.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Personal Use Drug Arrest Rate



Cannabis was the substance reported most often, accounting for 64.3% of drug arrests.

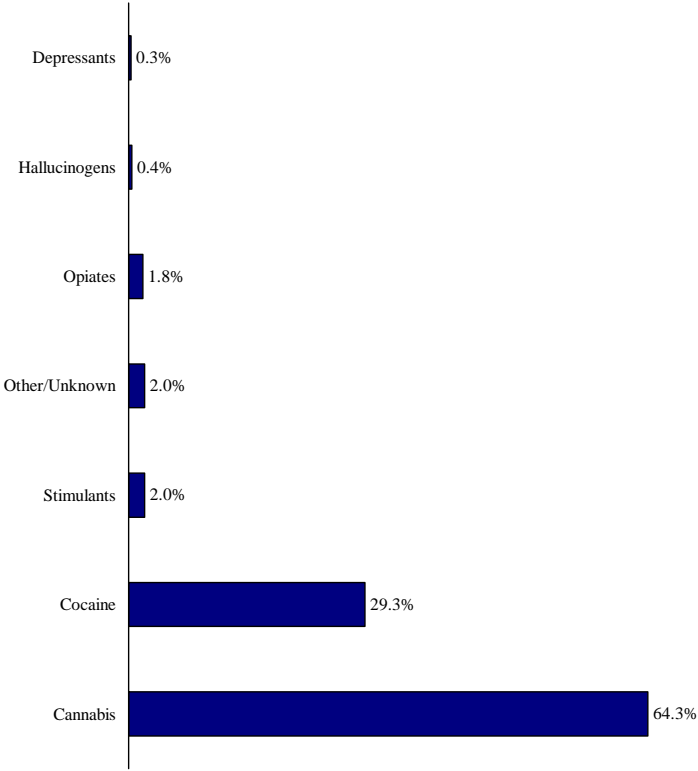
**DRUG ARRESTS BY SUBSTANCE
1996 - 2006**

Substance	Number	Percent
Cannabis	190,438	64.3%
Hashish	180	0.1%
Marijuana	190,258	64.2%
Cocaine	86,744	29.3%
Crack	68,228	23.1%
Powder	18,516	6.2%
Depressants	936	0.3%
Barbiturates	194	0.1%
Other Depressants	742	0.3%
Hallucinogens	1,189	0.4%
LSD	292	0.1%
Other Hallucinogens	865	0.3%
PCP	32	<0.1%
Opiates	5,267	1.8%
Heroin	1,826	0.6%
Morphine	147	<0.1%
Opium	44	<0.1%
Other narcotics	3,250	1.1%
Other/Unknown	5,842	2.0%
Stimulants	5,903	2.0%
Meth & Amphetamine	5,372	1.8%
Other Stimulants	531	0.2%
Total	296,319	100.0%

Notes: Categories in bold are major groupings, categories in regular type are sub-groupings. The 19,620 drug equipment only offenses do not involve a specific substance and are excluded. Total percent does not add up to 100 due to rounding.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Drug Arrests by Substance

1996 - 2006



The highest drug arrest rate was among young adults from 17 to 24 years old. The median age of people arrested for drug offenses was 25 years.

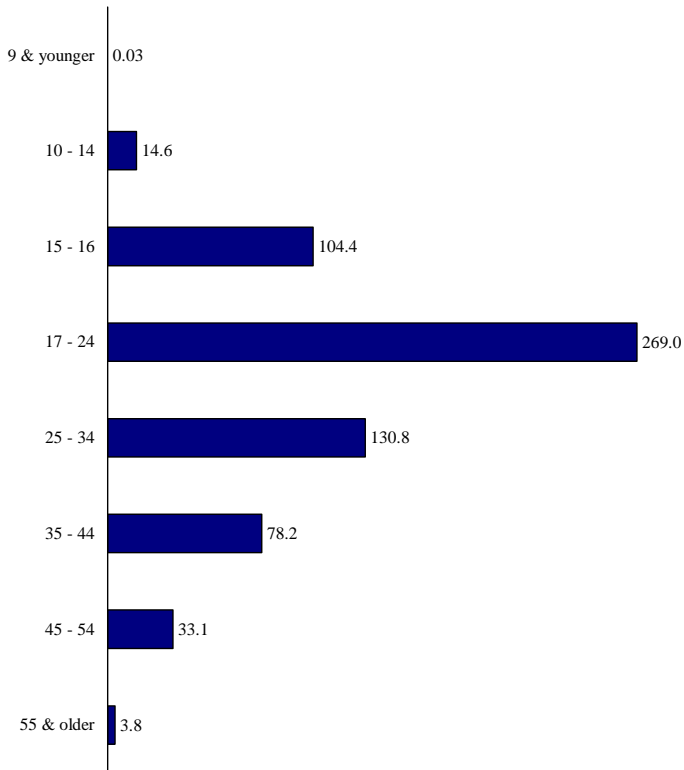
DRUG ARRESTS BY AGE
1996 – 2006

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Juvenile	18,126	5.7%	17.3
9 & younger	21	<0.1%	<0.1
10 - 14	4,615	1.5%	14.6
15 - 16	13,490	4.3%	104.4
Adult	297,501	94.3%	87.1
17 - 24	138,688	43.9%	269.0
25 - 34	81,753	25.9%	130.8
35 - 44	52,973	16.8%	78.2
45 - 54	20,339	6.4%	33.1
55 & older	3,748	1.2%	3.8
Total	315,627	100.0%	70.7

Notes: By South Carolina statute, 17 is generally the age of adult criminal responsibility. Three hundred sixteen arrestees were missing age data. The sum of the percents for the age groups does not equal the overall juvenile and adult percents due to rounding.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Drug Arrest Rate by Age 1996 - 2006



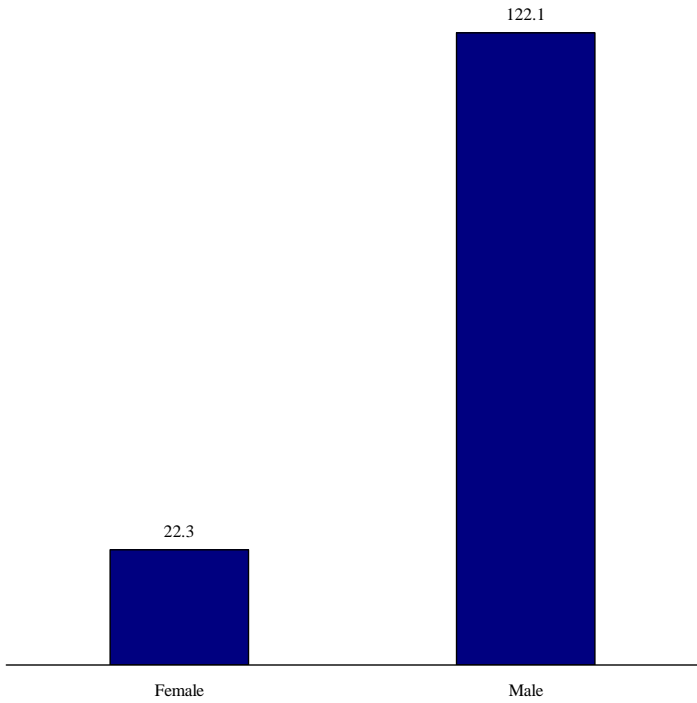
Males accounted for 83.8% of drug arrests. The drug arrest rate for males was 447.5% higher than the drug arrest rate for females.

**DRUG ARRESTS BY SEX
1996 – 2006**

Sex	Number	Percent	Rate
Female	51,114	16.2%	22.3
Male	264,825	83.8%	122.1
Total	315,939	100.0%	70.7

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Drug Arrest Rate by Sex 1996 - 2006



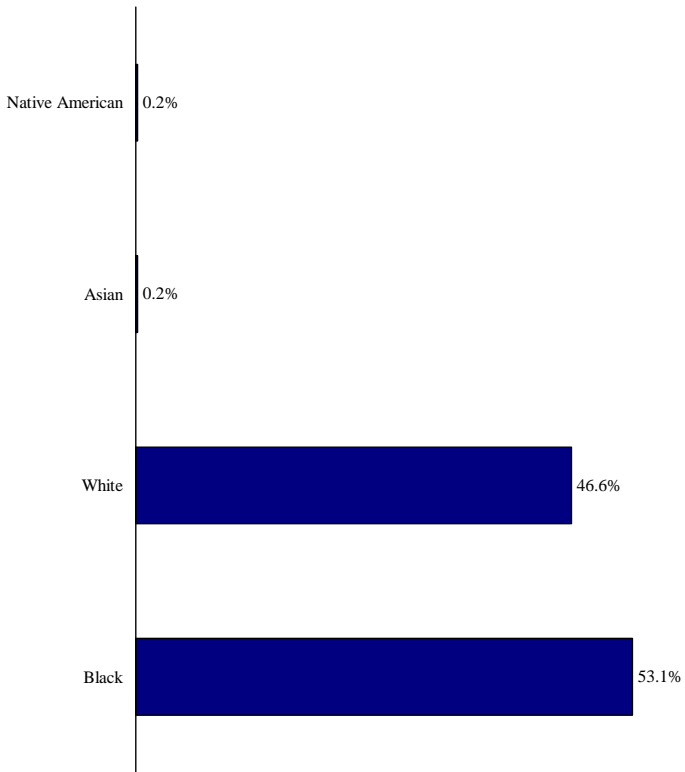
***Blacks accounted for 53.1% of drug arrests,
Whites accounted for 46.6%.***

**DRUG ARRESTS BY RACE
1996 – 2006**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	562	0.2%
Black	167,586	53.1%
Native American	548	0.2%
White	146,964	46.6%
Total	315,660	100.0%

Note: Two hundred seventy nine arrestees were of unknown race.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Drug Arrests by Race 1996 - 2006



The drug arrest rate for Non-Whites was 147.3% higher than the drug arrest rate for Whites.

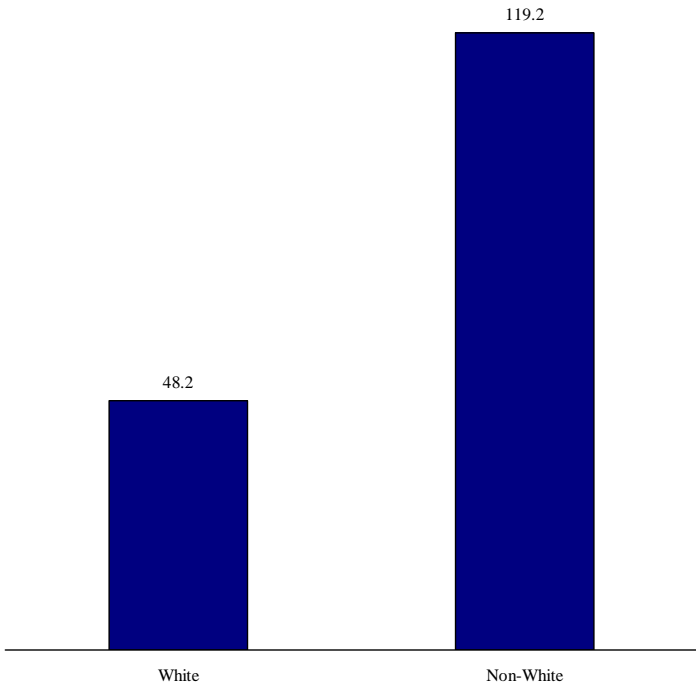
**DRUG ARRESTS BY RACIAL GROUP
1996 – 2006**

Racial Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Non-White	168,696	53.4%	119.2
White	146,964	46.6%	48.2
Total	315,660	100.0%	70.7

Notes: Two hundred seventy nine arrestees were of unknown race. The total rate is calculated on the basis of all arrestees. The Non-White racial group consists of Asian, Black and Native American.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Drug Arrest Rate by Racial Group 1996 - 2006



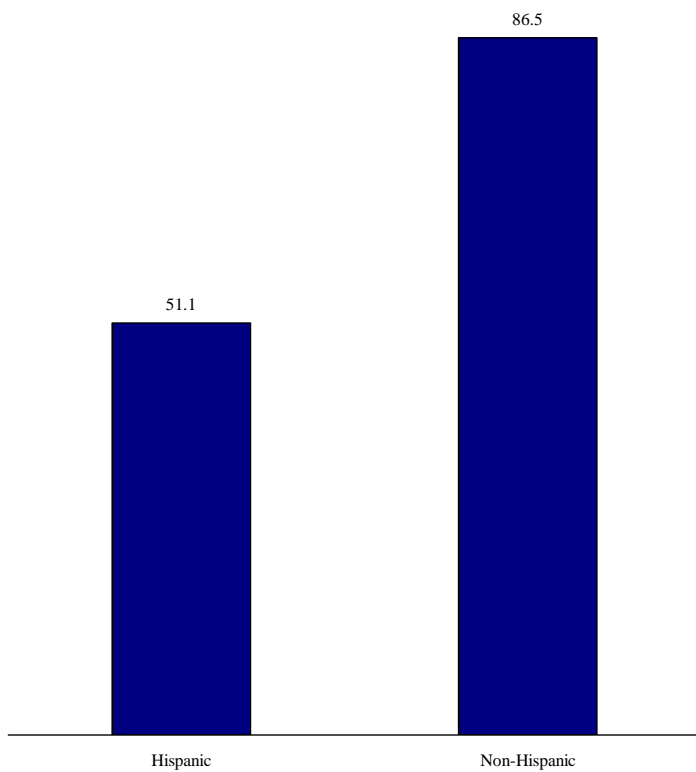
Non-Hispanics accounted for 98% of drug arrests from 2004 through 2006. The drug arrest rate for Non-Hispanics was 69.3% higher than the drug arrest rate for Hispanics.

**DRUG ARRESTS BY ETHNICITY
2004 – 2006**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Rate
Hispanic	2,156	2.0%	51.1
Non-Hispanic	106,883	98.0%	86.5
Total	109,039	100.0%	85.4

Notes: Five hundred ninety arrestees were of unknown ethnicity. The total rate was calculated on the basis of all arrestees. Due to the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in recent years, data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 were used.
Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Drug Arrest Rate by Ethnicity 2004 - 2006



Charleston County had more drug arrests than any other county in 2006.

**DRUG ARRESTS BY COUNTY
2006**

County	Number	Rate	County	Number	Rate
Abbeville	112	43.2	Greenwood	601	88.1
Aiken	1,257	82.8	Hampton	104	48.8
Allendale	53	49.5	Horry	2,878	120.7
Anderson	1,015	57.0	Jasper	262	120.2
Bamberg	97	61.8	Kershaw	371	64.5
Barnwell	208	89.3	Lancaster	621	97.6
Beaufort	968	68.2	Laurens	394	56.0
Berkeley	1,153	75.7	Lee	122	59.2
Calhoun	88	58.7	Lexington	1,851	77.1
Charleston	4,869	146.7	McCormick	26	25.5
Cherokee	560	103.9	Marion	183	52.7
Chester	396	120.4	Marlboro	368	126.0
Chesterfield	599	138.7	Newberry	467	123.5
Clarendon	286	85.9	Oconee	386	54.7
Colleton	287	72.7	Orangeburg	562	61.9
Darlington	859	127.1	Pickens	502	43.9
Dillon	323	104.2	Richland	3,227	92.7
Dorchester	1,066	89.6	Saluda	111	58.1
Edgefield	176	69.6	Spartanburg	1,699	62.7
Fairfield	241	101.3	Sumter	681	65.2
Florence	1,732	131.9	Union	387	136.7
Georgetown	515	84.6	Williamsburg	144	39.9
Greenville	4,079	97.8	York	2,004	100.7

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Charleston County had the highest rate of drug arrests in 2006.

**COUNTIES WITH THE TEN HIGHEST DRUG
ARREST RATES
2006**

County	Number	Rate
Charleston	4,869	146.7
Chesterfield	599	138.7
Union	387	136.7
Florence	1,732	131.9
Darlington	859	127.1
Marlboro	368	126.0
Newberry	467	123.5
Horry	2,878	120.7
Chester	396	120.4
Jasper	262	120.2

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Court Filings

Court filings consist of drug cases filed in the Court of General Sessions. Drug cases were identified by the CDR code. All violations of statutes concerning drug laws or drug equipment laws were included.

There are two important limitations to these data which should be noted. First, the data are limited to cases filed in General Sessions Court. This means that drug cases filed in Magistrate, Municipal and Family Courts are not included. The practical result of that is the less serious cases typically handled in Magistrate or Municipal Court are excluded. Similarly, juvenile cases, other than those tried in adult court are also excluded. Second, while CDR codes are tied to individual state statutes, those statutes are not particularly precise as they relate to specific drugs. Many statutes include more than one illegal drug such as possession of crack, crank and ice. These combinations make it impossible in such cases to determine which of the illicit substances was involved. Despite these limitations, court filing data provides valuable insight into the extent to which drug use has an impact on the judicial process. That factor alone has important implications given the sheer volume of drug cases being processed through the court.

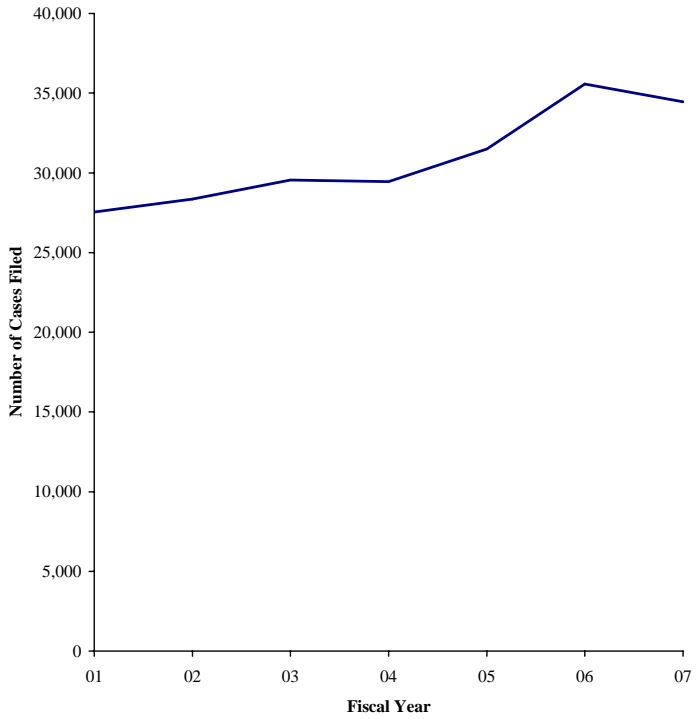
Cases filed in General Sessions Court for drug offenses increased 25% from FY 01 to FY 07.

**GENERAL SESSIONS COURT CASES FILED
FOR DRUG OFFENSES**

Fiscal Year	Number	Annual Change
2001	27,555	
2002	28,355	+2.9%
2003	29,544	+4.2%
2004	29,444	-0.3%
2005	31,493	+7.0%
2006	35,581	+13.0%
2007	34,451	-3.2%

Source: SCDJ, *General Sessions Dispositions by All Offenses*.

**Drug Cases Filed in
General Sessions Court
FY 01 - FY 07**



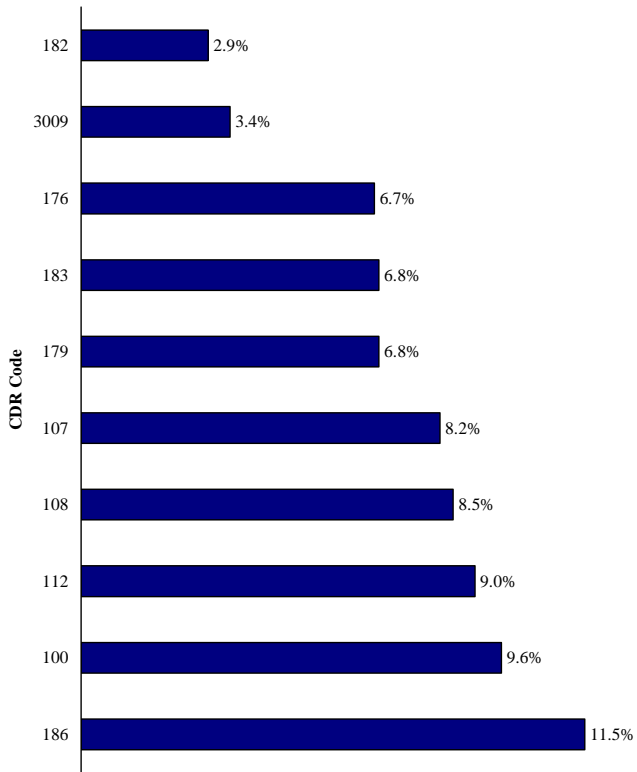
The offense for which the most cases were filed in General Sessions Court from FY 01 to FY 07 was manufacture or possession of other substance in Schedule I, II, III or flunitrazepam w.i.t.d. - 1st offense.

**TOP TEN DRUG OFFENSES FILED IN
GENERAL SESSIONS COURT
FY 01 – FY 07**

1. Mfg, poss., of other sub. in Sch. I,II,III or flunitrazepam w.i.t.d. 1st offense, CDR code 186 - 24,971 (11.5%).
2. Possession of less than one gram of ice, crank, or crack cocaine - 1st off., CDR code 100 – 20,779 (9.6%).
3. Manufacture, distribution, etc., ice, crank, crack cocaine - 1st offense, CDR code 112 – 19,556 (9%).
4. Distribute, sell, purch., manuf. crack cocaine, or pwid, near school, CDR code 108 – 18,418 (8.5%).
5. Distribute, sell, purch., manuf. drug other than crack cocaine, or pwid, near school, CDR code 107 – 17,718 (8.2%).
6. Poss. of other controlled sub. in Sched. I to V, 1st offense, CDR code 179 – 14,665 (6.8%).
7. MDP, Narcotic drugs in Sch. I(b) & (c), LSD, and Sched. II (Cocaine) 1st offense, CDR code 183 – 14,627 (6.8%).
8. Poss. of narc. in Schedule I(b),(c),LSD & Schedule II (Cocaine) 1st offense, CDR code 176 – 14,494 (6.7%).
9. Possession of less than one gram of meth. or cocaine base, 1st offense, CDR code 3009 – 7,298 (3.4%).
10. Poss. of 28g (1 oz) or less of marijuana or 10g or less of hash 2nd or sub., CDR code 182 – 6,372 (2.9%).

Source: SCDJ, *General Sessions Dispositions by All Offenses.*

Top Ten Drug Offenses in General Sessions Court, FY 01 - FY 07



Drug trafficking cases accounted for 55.8% of the drug cases filed in General Sessions Court from FY 01 to FY 07.

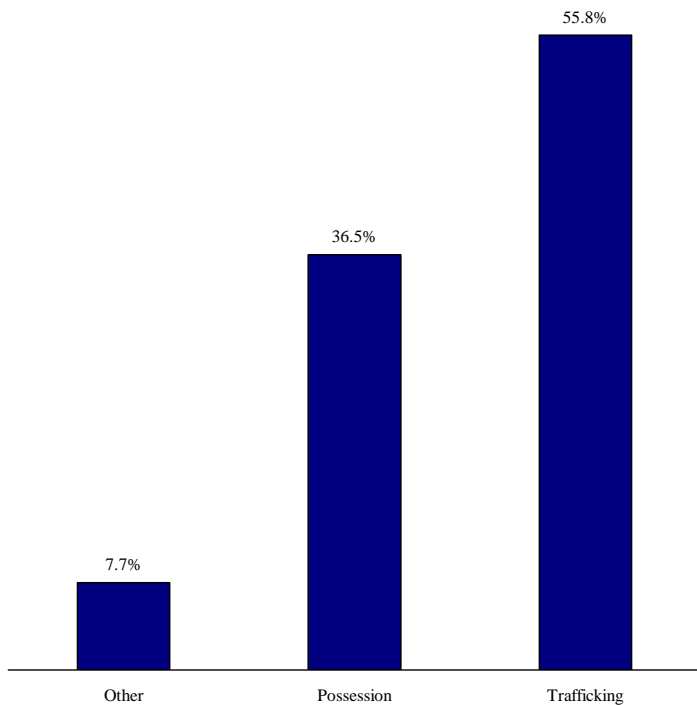
**GENERAL SESSIONS COURT CASES FILED BY
TYPE OF DRUG OFFENSES
FY 01 – FY 07**

Type of Offense	Number	Percent
Other	16,621	7.7%
Possession	79,007	36.5%
Trafficking	120,795	55.8%
Total	216,423	100.0%

Notes: CDR code descriptions were used as the basis for defining drug offenses as possession or trafficking.

Source: SCDJ, *General Sessions Dispositions by All Offenses*.

**Drug Cases Filed in General Sessions
Court by Type of Offense
FY 01 - FY 07**



Cocaine cases accounted for 64.6% of the drug cases filed in General Sessions Court from FY 01 to FY 07.

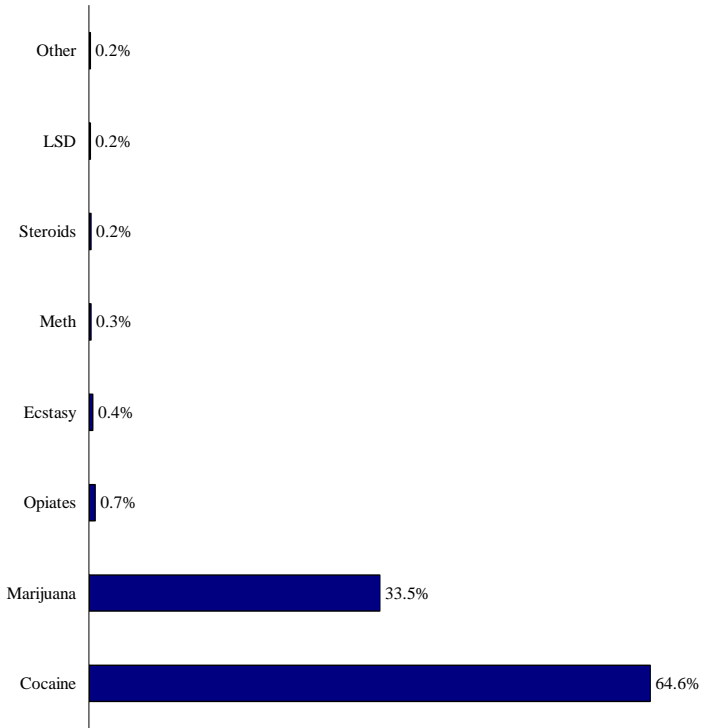
**GENERAL SESSIONS COURT CASES FILED BY
SPECIFIC DRUG
FY 01 – FY 07**

Drug	Number	Percent
Cocaine	26,689	64.6%
Ecstasy	179	0.4%
Flunitazepam	5	<0.1%
GHB (date rape drug)	16	<0.1%
Glue	16	<0.1%
LSD	66	0.2%
Marijuana/Hashish	13,826	33.5%
Methamphetamine	104	0.3%
Methaqualone	29	0.1%
Opiates	289	0.7%
Steroids	94	0.2%
Total	41,313	100.0%

Notes: This table does not include offenses that combine illicit substances into a single offense code (159,242) or offense codes that do not involve a specific illicit substance (15,868). CDR code descriptions were used as the basis for classifying offenses by specific drug.

Source: SCDJ, *General Sessions Dispositions by All Offenses*.

**General Sessions Court Drug Cases
Filed by Substance
FY 01 - FY 07**



The number of drug trafficking cases filed in General Sessions Court increased 13.7% from FY 01 through FY 07.

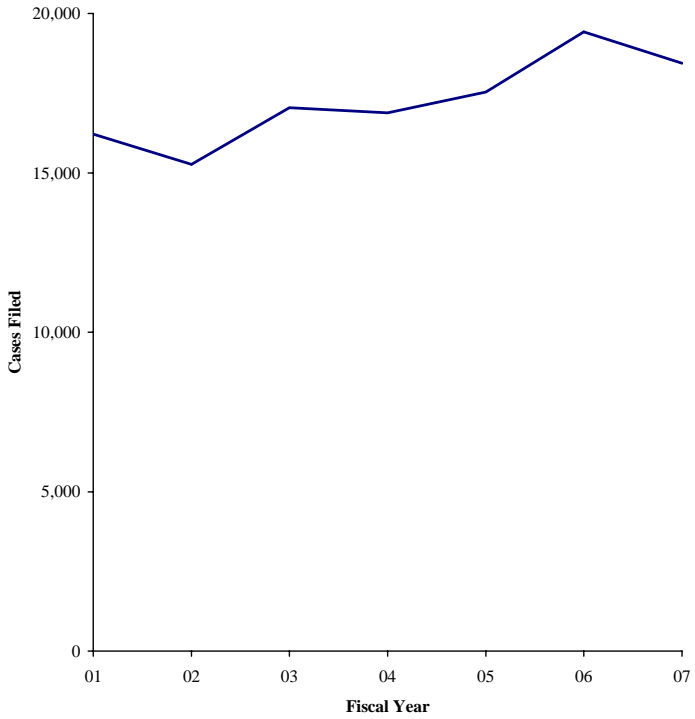
**GENERAL SESSIONS COURT CASES FILED
FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING OFFENSES
FY 01 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Number	Change
2001	16,221	
2002	15,262	-5.9%
2003	17,041	+11.7%
2004	16,877	-1.0%
2005	17,538	+3.9%
2006	19,419	+10.7%
2007	18,437	-5.1%

Note: CDR code descriptions were used as the basis for defining drug offenses as trafficking.

Source: SCDJ, *General Sessions Dispositions by All Offenses*.

**Drug Trafficking Cases Filed in
General Sessions Court
FY 01 - FY 07**



The number of General Sessions Court cases filed for drug possession offenses increased 61.4% from FY 01 to FY 07.

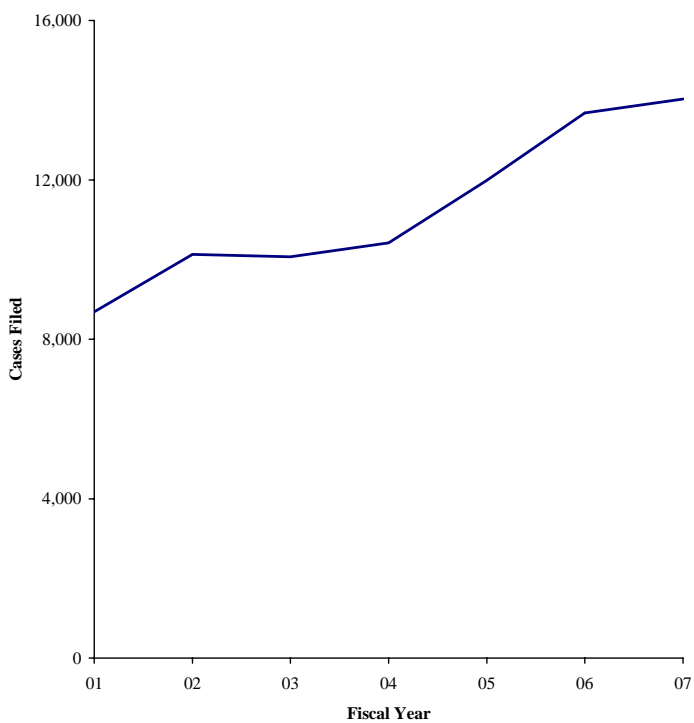
**GENERAL SESSIONS COURT CASES FILED
FOR DRUG POSSESSION OFFENSES
FY 01 - FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Number	Change
2001	8,691	
2002	10,132	+16.6%
2003	10,070	-0.6%
2004	10,414	+3.4%
2005	11,988	+15.1%
2006	13,683	+14.1%
2007	14,029	+2.5%

Note: CDR code descriptions were used as the basis for defining drug offenses as possession.

Source: SCDJ, *General Sessions Dispositions by All Offenses*.

**Drug Possession Cases Filed in
General Sessions Court
FY 01 - FY 07**



Corrections

SCDC collects detailed information related to the criminal and personal backgrounds of each inmate taken into custody. As one perspective on the extent and nature of illegal drug use, this report includes information about inmates sent to SCDC who had a drug offense among the offenses for which they were convicted. This perspective is important because it provides information about the people incarcerated with drug offenses, and also serves as an indicator of the impact that illegal drug users have on the prison system. The report also includes data from drug tests on inmates, providing information on drug use inside prison.

It is equally important to be mindful that there are limitations associated with this data source. SCDC inmates represent those offenders sentenced to the most serious sanction, incarceration in the state prison system, as opposed to a less punitive sanction. Additionally, prison drug tests likely reflect the patterns of drug use and availability in prison rather than in the open society.

For the purpose of this report, a drug admission was defined as an inmate committed to incarceration at SCDC who had among the commitment offenses, a drug offense. It was not necessarily the most serious offense for which the inmate was convicted. SCDC admission and drug test data represent the FY 00 through FY 07 time period. Data from FY 07 was used to provide comparisons of inmates with drug offenses to inmates without drug offenses.

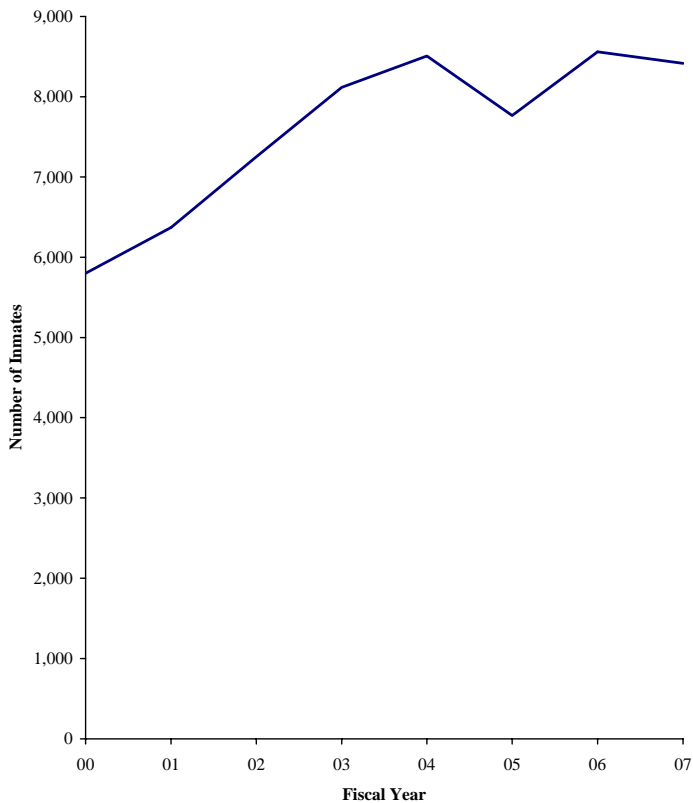
Admissions of inmates with drug offenses increased 45.1% from FY 00 to FY 07.

**PRISON DRUG ADMISSIONS
FY 00 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Number	Annual Change
2000	5,799	
2001	6,373	+9.9%
2002	7,250	+13.8%
2003	8,116	+11.9%
2004	8,508	+4.8%
2005	7,767	-8.7%
2006	8,558	+10.2%
2007	8,417	-1.6%

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Prison Drug Admissions



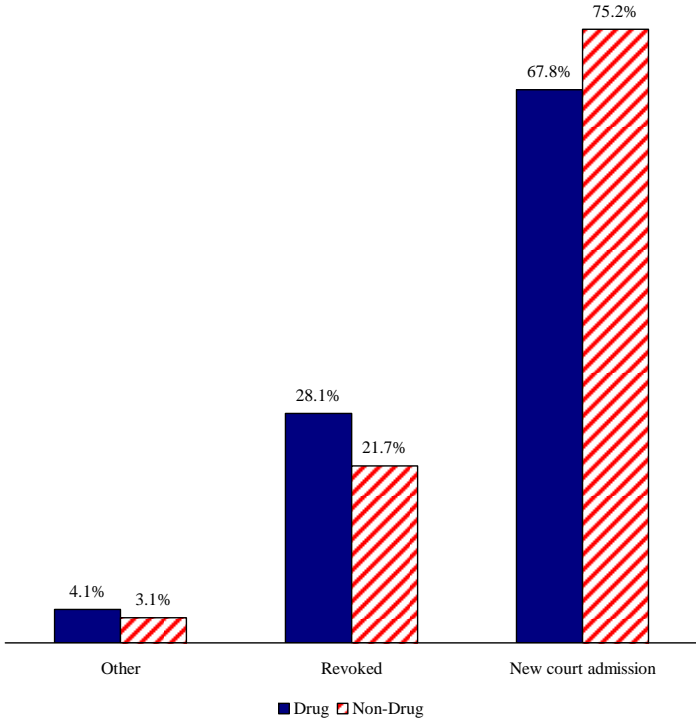
In FY 07, 28.1% of inmates with drug offenses were admitted as a result of a revocation compared to 21.7% of non-drug inmate admissions.

**PRISON ADMISSIONS BY SENTENCE
DRUG vs. NON-DRUG
FY 07**

Type of Admission	Drug	Non-Drug
New from Court	67.8%	75.2%
Revocation	28.1%	21.7%
Other	4.1%	3.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Prison Admissions by Sentence Drug vs. Non-Drug FY 07



Possession of crack cocaine was the most frequently reported drug offense among inmates admitted to SCDC.

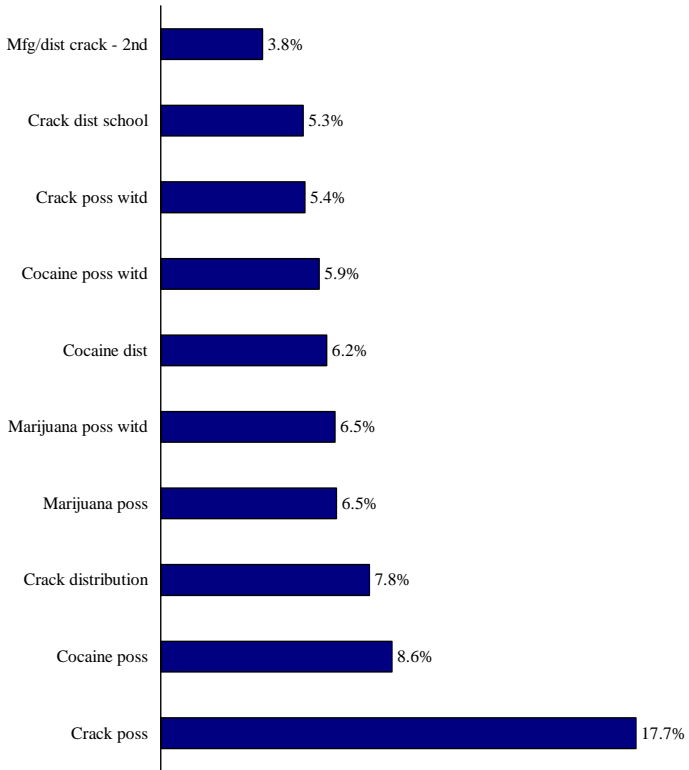
**TOP TEN DRUG OFFENSES
PRISON DRUG ADMISSIONS
FY 00 – FY 07**

Offense	Number	Percent
Crack possession	10,774	17.7%
Cocaine possession	5,237	8.6%
Crack distribution	4,726	7.8%
Marijuana possession	3,979	6.5%
Marijuana poss. witd	3,954	6.5%
Cocaine distribution	3,762	6.2%
Cocaine poss. witd	3,590	5.9%
Crack poss. witd	3,265	5.4%
Crack distribution in proximity of a school	3,230	5.3%
Mfg. or dist. crack, 2nd offense	2,307	3.8%

Notes: Percent was calculated on the basis of total admissions, since only the top ten offenses are included the percent column does not total 100. The abbreviation “witd” stands for with intent to distribute.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Top Ten Drug Offenses - Prison Admissions, FY 00 - FY 07



Drug offenses constituted the most serious offense for 65% of the inmate drug admissions in FY 07. Among inmates without drug offenses, burglary was the most serious offense reported most frequently.

**FIVE MOST SERIOUS OFFENSES
PRISON ADMISSIONS - DRUG vs. NON-DRUG
FY 07**

Drug Admissions

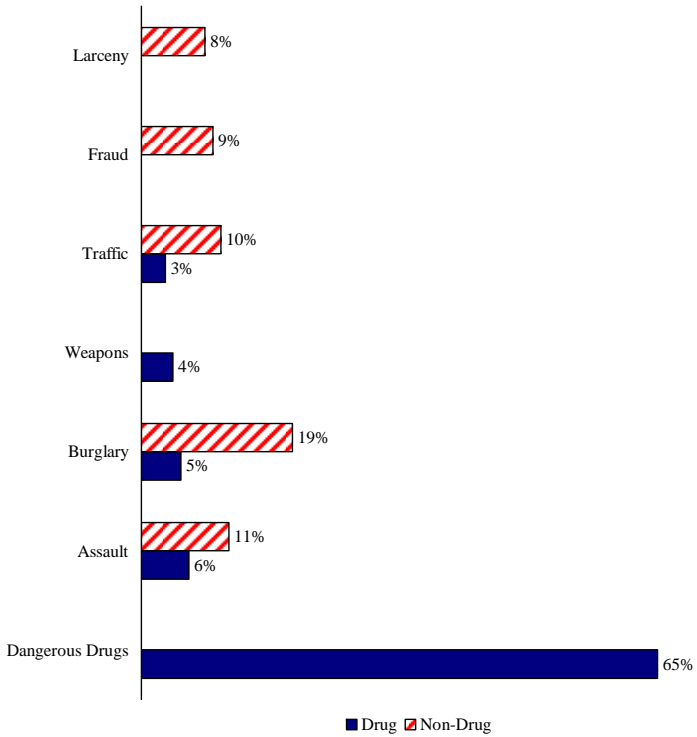
Most Serious Offense	Percent
Dangerous Drugs	65%
Assault	6%
Burglary	5%
Weapons	4%
Traffic	3%

Non-Drug Admissions

Most Serious Offense	Percent
Burglary	19%
Assault	11%
Traffic	10%
Fraud	9%
Larceny	8%

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Five Most Serious Offenses Drug vs. Non-Drug Admissions FY 07



Fewer inmates admitted with drug offenses had a current violent offense or prior commitments than inmates without drug offenses. However, more inmates with drug offenses had a prior criminal history than inmates without drug offenses.

**PRISON ADMISSIONS BY CRIMINAL HISTORY
DRUG vs. NON-DRUG
FY 07**

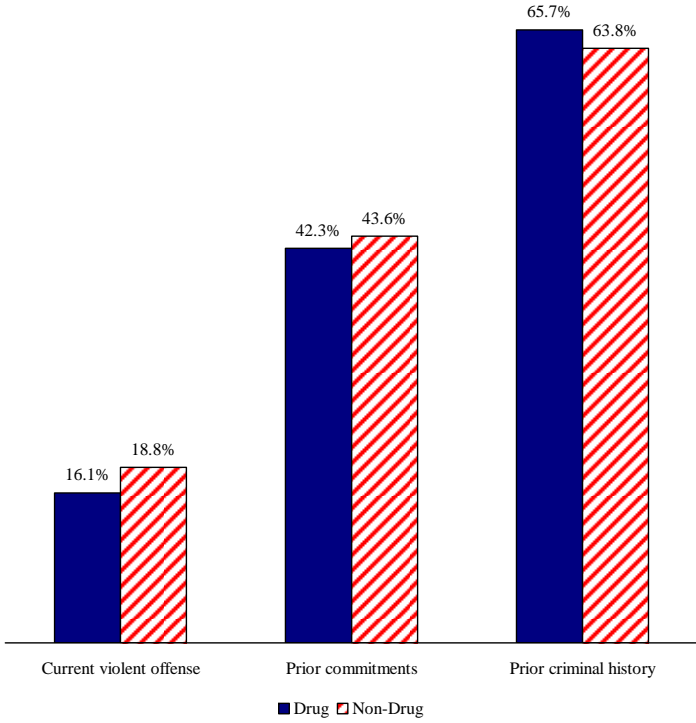
Criminal History	Drug	Non-Drug
Current violent offense	16.1%	18.8%
Prior commitments	42.3%	43.6%
Prior criminal history	65.7%	63.8%

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Criminal History

Drug vs. Non-Drug Admissions

FY 07



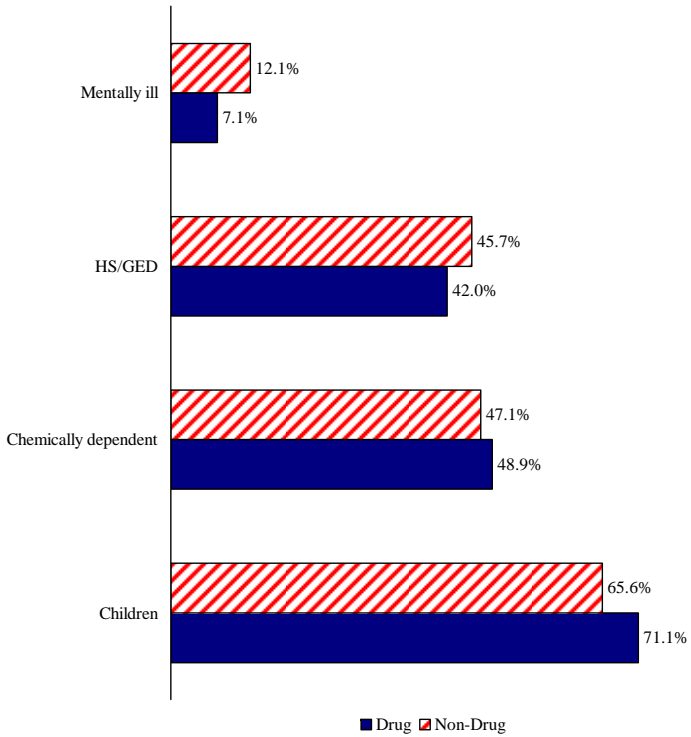
Inmates admitted with drug offenses were more likely to have children and were often diagnosed as being chemically dependent than non-drug admissions. Drug admissions were less likely to have a high school diploma/equivalence or to be diagnosed as mentally ill.

**PRISON ADMISSIONS BY SPECIAL NEEDS
DRUG vs. NON-DRUG
FY 07**

Special Need	Drug	Non-Drug
Chemically dependent	48.9%	47.1%
Mentally ill	7.1%	12.1%
HS/GED	42.0%	45.7%
Children	71.1%	65.6%

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Special Needs Drug vs. Non-Drug Admissions FY 07



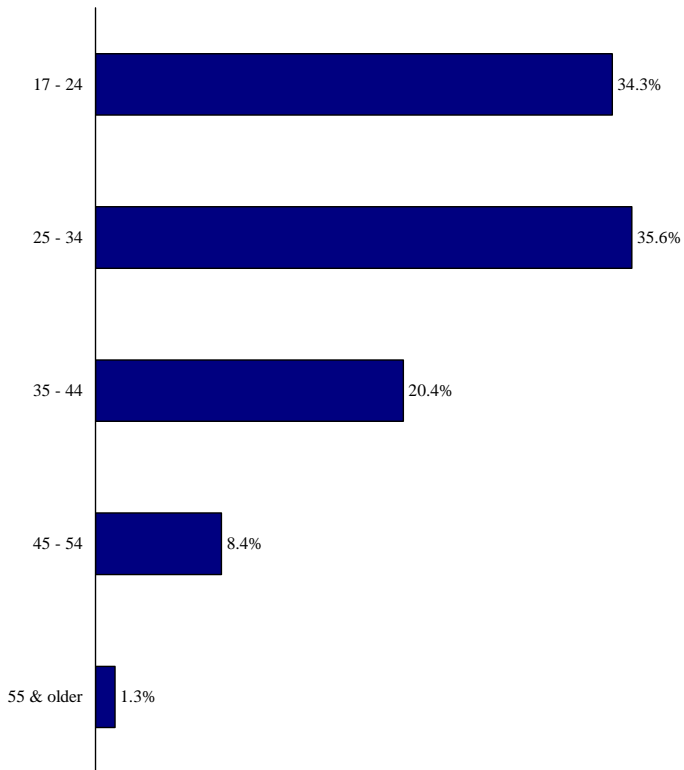
Inmates between 25 and 34 accounted for 35.6% of the inmates admitted with drug offenses.

**PRISON DRUG ADMISSIONS BY AGE
FY 00 – FY 07**

Age Group	Number	Percent
17 - 24	20,823	34.3%
25 - 34	21,612	35.6%
35 - 44	12,403	20.4%
45 - 54	5,076	8.4%
55 & older	787	1.3%
Total	60,701	100.0%

Note: Eighty seven inmates were missing age data.
Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Prison Drug Admissions by Age FY 00 - FY 07



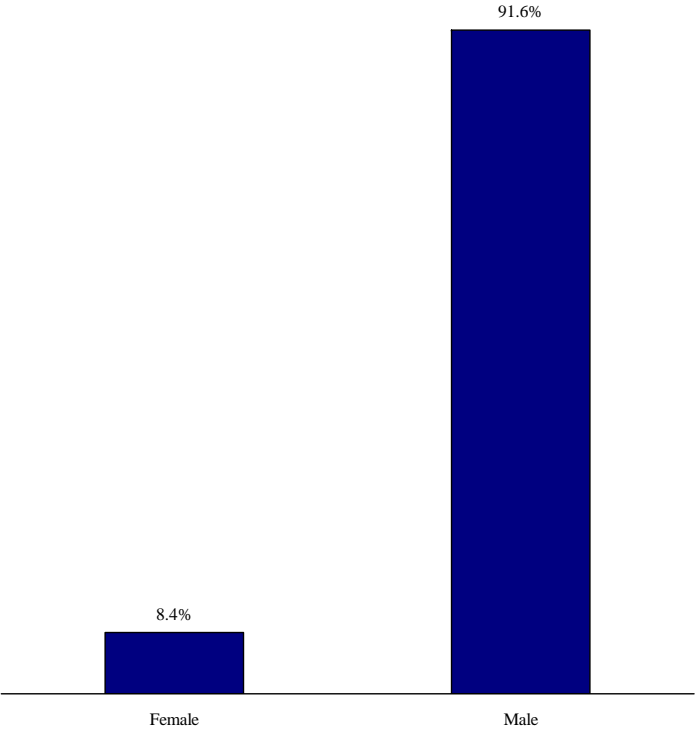
Males accounted for 91.6% of the inmates admitted with drug offenses.

**PRISON DRUG ADMISSIONS BY SEX
FY 00 – FY 07**

Sex	Number	Percent
Female	5,132	8.4%
Male	55,656	91.6%
Total	60,788	100.0%

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Prison Drug Admissions by Sex
FY 00 - FY 07



***Of the inmates admitted with drug offenses,
78.4% were Black, 20.6% were White.***

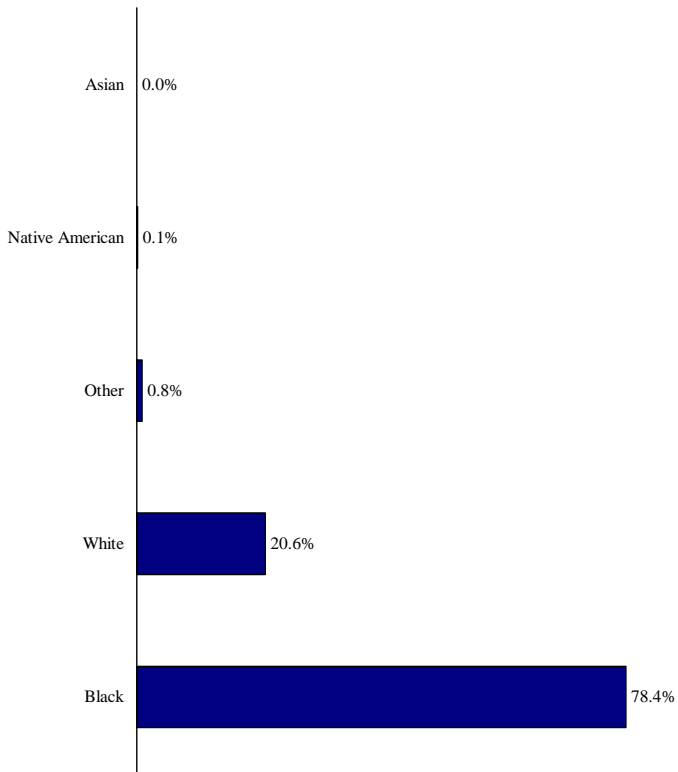
**PRISON DRUG ADMISSIONS BY RACE
FY 00 – FY 07**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	23	<0.1%
Black	47,672	78.4%
Native American	65	0.1%
Other	495	0.8%
White	12,532	20.6%
Total	60,787	100.0%

Notes: One inmate was missing race data. The sum of the items in the percent column does not total 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Prison Drug Admissions by Race FY 00 - FY 07



Hispanics accounted for 0.7% of the inmates admitted with drug offenses.

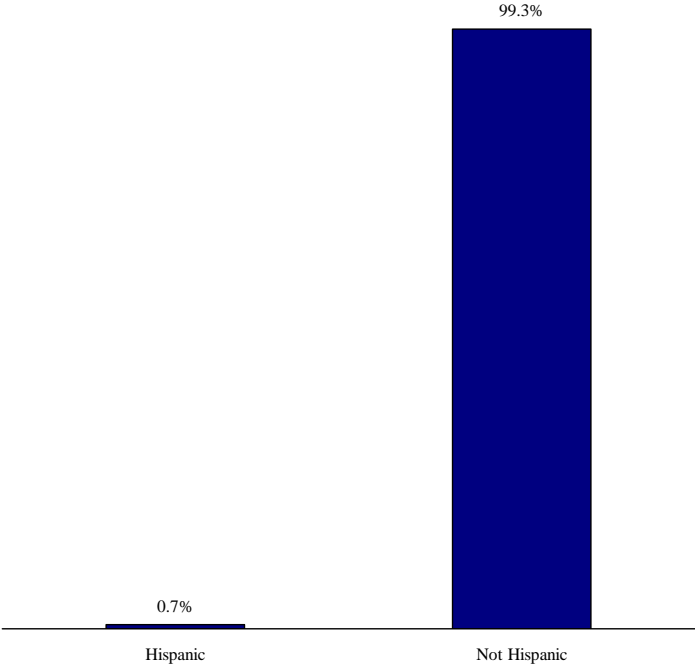
**PRISON DRUG ADMISSIONS BY ETHNICITY
FY 00 – FY 07**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent
Hispanic	420	0.7%
Not Hispanic	59,506	99.3%
Total	59,926	100.0%

Note: Eight hundred sixty two inmates were of unknown ethnicity or missing ethnicity data.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Prison Drug Admissions by Ethnicity
FY 00 - FY 07



The number of positive tests of inmates peaked in 2004 with 3,688 positive tests.

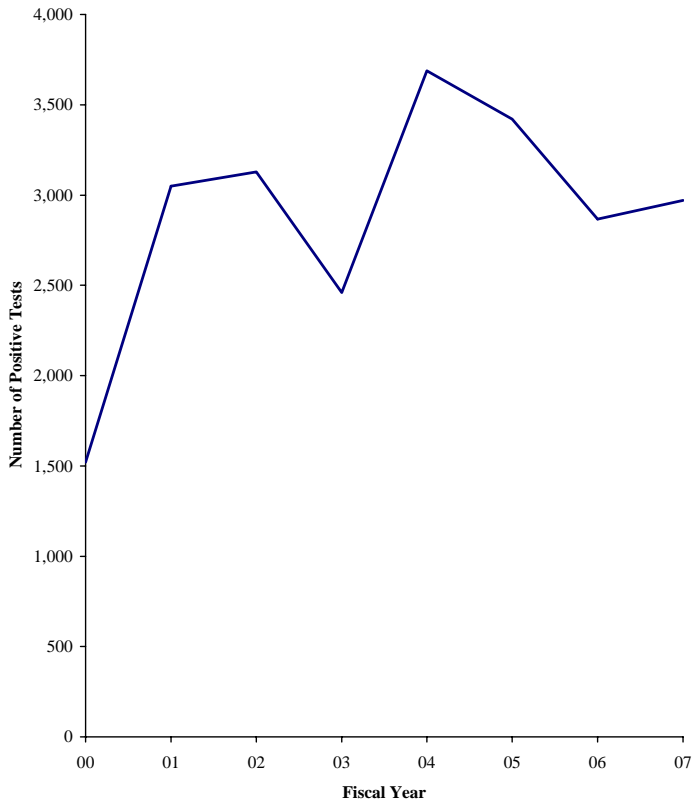
**PRISON DRUG TESTING
FY 00 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
2000	1,521	56.5%
2001	3,050	60.0%
2002	3,128	65.3%
2003	2,461	70.0%
2004	3,688	69.0%
2005	3,421	71.6%
2006	2,866	69.9%
2007	2,970	67.6%

Notes: An inmate can be tested more than once and test positive for more than one drug. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of inmates testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of tests that detected drug use.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Postive Inmate Drug Tests



THC, the active ingredient in marijuana and hashish, accounted for 88.4% of the positive drug tests in prison.

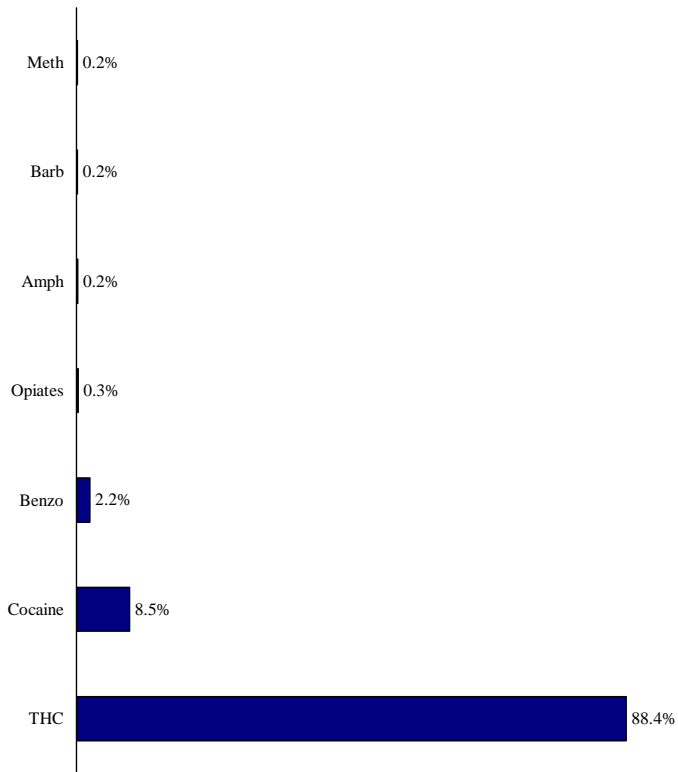
**PRISON DRUG TESTING RESULTS
BY DRUG
FY 00 – FY 07**

Drug	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
Amphetamine	53	0.2%
Barbiturates	42	0.2%
Benzodiazepine	508	2.2%
Cocaine	1,969	8.5%
Methamphetamine	36	0.2%
Opiates	65	0.3%
THC	20,432	88.4%
Total	23,105	100.0%

Notes: An inmate can be tested more than once and test positive for more than one drug. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of inmates testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of tests that detected drug use.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Positive Tests in Prison by Drug FY 00 - FY 07



Community Corrections

SCDPPPS collects information on offenders under community corrections supervision that come into its custody in by way of sentences to probation, release from prison to parole, release from prison to probation supervision as well as other means. The data collected provides demographic and criminal history information about SCDPPPS drug admissions, as well as trends over time associated with that volume. This report also includes data concerning drug test results for offenders under correctional supervision in the community.

SCDPPPS data provide an important perspective on illegal drug use. Though under supervision, these offenders have considerable freedom to participate, both legitimately and illegitimately, in society. The results of their drug tests may provide some degree of insight into the overall patterns of illegal drug use, although the selection process for testing may limit the ability to generalize from the results. Additionally, the impact of illegal drug use on community corrections as part of the criminal justice infrastructure is important on its own merits.

A SCDPPPS drug admission was defined as an individual sentenced to SCDPPPS supervision with a drug offense among the commitment offenses. It was not necessarily the most serious offense. SCDPPPS admission and drug testing data represent the FY 96 through FY 07 time period.

The number of offenders admitted to SCDPPPS with a drug offense increased 33.1% from FY 96 to FY 07.

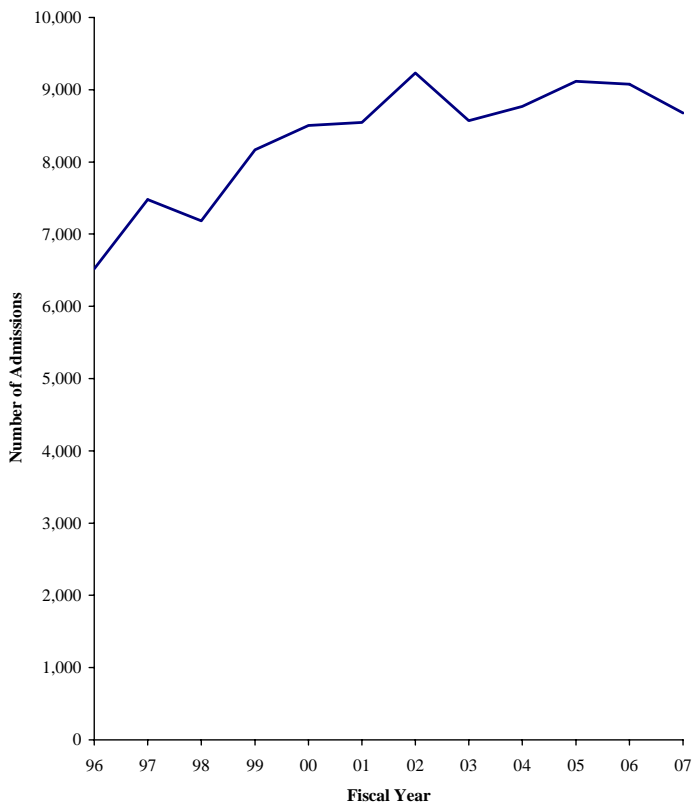
**SCDPPPS DRUG ADMISSIONS
FY 96 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Number	Annual Change
1996	6,519	
1997	7,480	+14.7%
1998	7,185	-3.9%
1999	8,165	+13.6%
2000	8,502	+4.1%
2001	8,547	+0.5%
2002	9,230	+8.0%
2003	8,570	-7.2%
2004	8,767	+2.3%
2005	9,116	+4.0%
2006	9,075	-0.4%
2007	8,675	-4.4%

Note: A drug admission was defined as an admission where at least one of the commitment offenses was a drug offense.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

SCDPPPS Drug Admissions



Probation sentences accounted for 59.6% of the offenders with drug offenses admitted to SCDPPPS supervision.

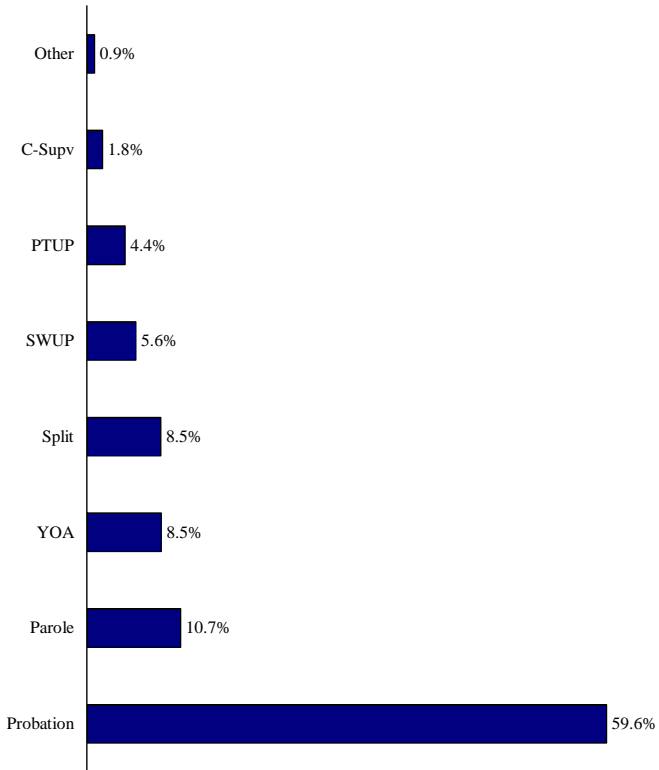
**SCDPPPS DRUG ADMISSIONS BY SENTENCE
FY 96 – FY 07**

Sentence	Number	Percent
Community Supervision	1,783	1.8%
Other Programs	865	0.9%
Parole	10,723	10.7%
Probation	59,502	59.6%
PTUP	4,381	4.4%
SWUP	5,610	5.6%
Split Sentence	8,459	8.5%
Youthful Offender Act	8,508	8.5%
Total	99,831	100.0%

Notes: The following abbreviations were used; PTUP – Probation to Terminate Upon Payment, SWUP - Suspended While Under Probation. Other programs included early release programs, monitoring for the court or the Department of Juvenile Justice, shock probation and monitoring offenders found not guilty by reason of insanity.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

SCDPPPS Drug Admissions by Sentence, FY 96 - FY 07



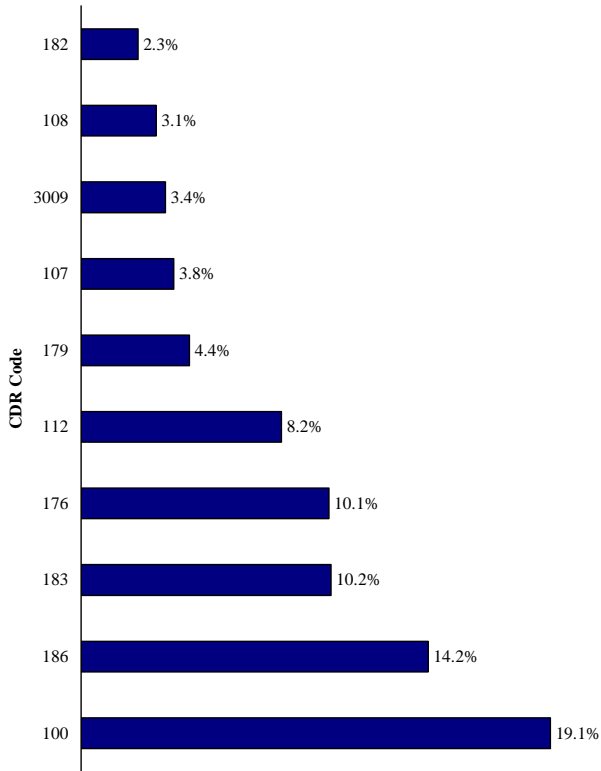
The offense, Possession of less than one gram of ice, crank or crack cocaine 1st offense, accounted for 19.1% of SCDPPPS drug admissions.

**TOP TEN DRUG OFFENSES
AMONG SCDPPPS ADMISSIONS
FY 96 – FY 07**

1. Possession of less than one gram of ice, crank or crack cocaine, 1st offense; CDR code 100 - 19,109 (19.1%).
2. Manufacture, possession of other substance in Schedule I, II, III or flunitrazepam with intent to distribute, 1st offense; CDR code 186 – 14,135 (14.2%).
3. MDP, Narcotic drugs in Schedule I (b)&(c), LSC and Schedule II (Cocaine), 1st offense; CDR code 183 – 10,169 (10.2%).
4. Possession of narcotics in Schedule I(b),(c), LSD & Schedule II (Cocaine), 1st offense; CDR code 176 – 10,092 (10.1%).
5. Manufacture, distribution, etc, ice, crank, crack cocaine, 1st offense; CDR code 112 – 8,158 (8.2%).
6. Possession of other controlled substance in Schedule I to V, 1st offense; CDR code 179 – 4,409 (4.4%).
7. Distribute, sell, purchase, manufacture drug other than crack cocaine or possession with intent to distribute near school; CDR code 107 – 3,772 (3.8%).
8. Possession of less than one gram of meth or cocaine base, 1st offense; CDR code 3009 – 3,439 (3.4%).
9. Distribute, sell, purchase, manufacture crack cocaine, or possession with intent to distribute near school; CDR code 108 – 3,049 (3.1%).
10. Possession of 28 grams or less of marijuana or 10 grams or less of hashish, 2nd or subsequent offense; CDR code 182 – 2,324 (2.3%).

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

Top Ten SCDPPPS Drug Offenses FY 96 -FY 07



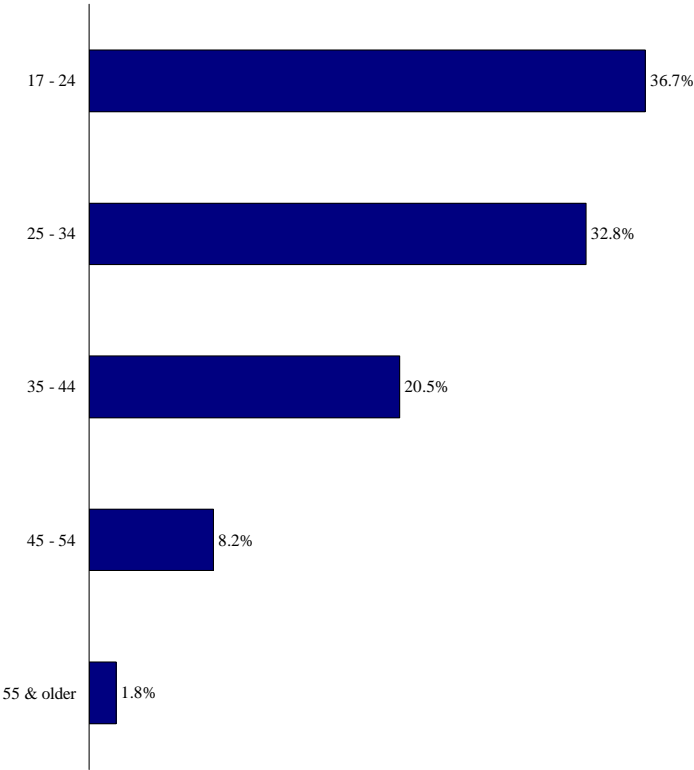
Offenders from 17 through 24 years of age accounted for 36.7% of the offenders with drug offenses admitted to SCDPPPS supervision.

**SCDPPPS DRUG ADMISSIONS BY AGE
FY 96 – FY 07**

Age	Number	Percent
17 - 24	36,545	36.7%
25 - 34	32,620	32.8%
35 - 44	20,452	20.5%
45 - 54	8,214	8.2%
55 & older	1,784	1.8%
Total	99,615	100.0%

Notes: Two hundred sixteen offenders were missing age data.
Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

SCDPPPS Drug Admissions by Age
FY 96 - FY 07



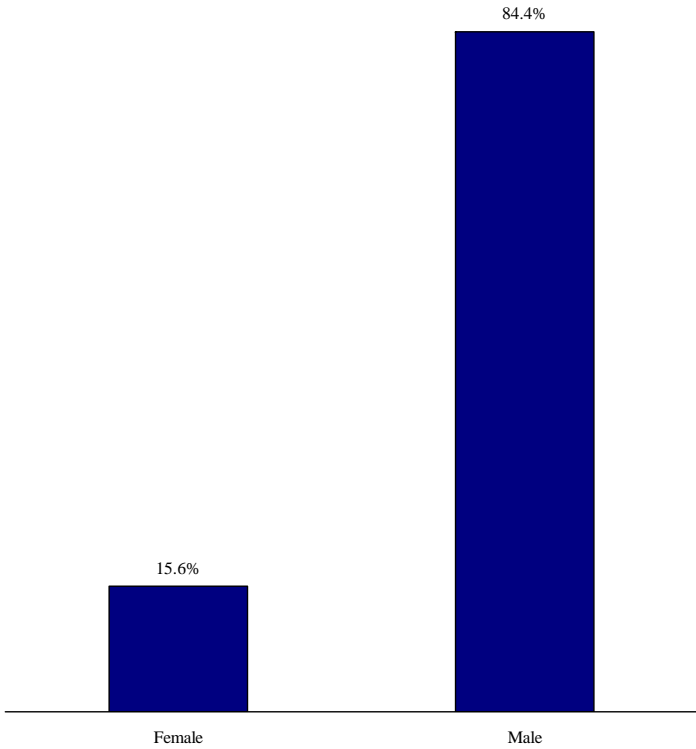
Males accounted for 84.4% of offenders with drug offenses admitted to SCDPPPS supervision.

**SCDPPPS DRUG ADMISSIONS BY SEX
FY 96 – FY 07**

Sex	Number	Percent
Female	15,532	15.6%
Male	84,279	84.4%
Total	99,811	100.0%

Note: Twenty offenders were missing sex data.
Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

SCDPPPS Drug Admissions by Sex FY 96 - FY 07



Blacks accounted for 65.6% of offenders with drug offenses admitted to SCDPPPS supervision, Whites accounted for 33.4%.

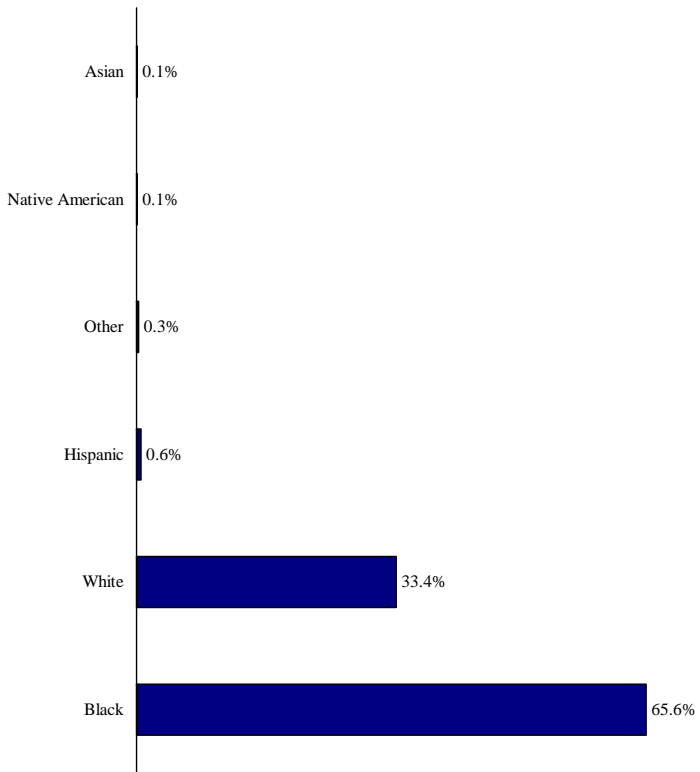
**SCDPPPS DRUG ADMISSIONS BY RACE
FY 96 – FY 07**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	80	0.1%
Black	65,430	65.6%
Hispanic	592	0.6%
Native American	108	0.1%
Other	272	0.3%
White	33,327	33.4%
Total	99,809	100.0%

Notes: SCDPPPS defined Hispanic as a racial category, not as an ethnicity category. Twenty two offenders were missing race data. The percent column does not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

SCDPPPS Drug Admissions by Race FY 96 - FY 07



The number of positive drug test results among SCDPPPS offenders peaked in FY 01 with 25,816 positive test results.

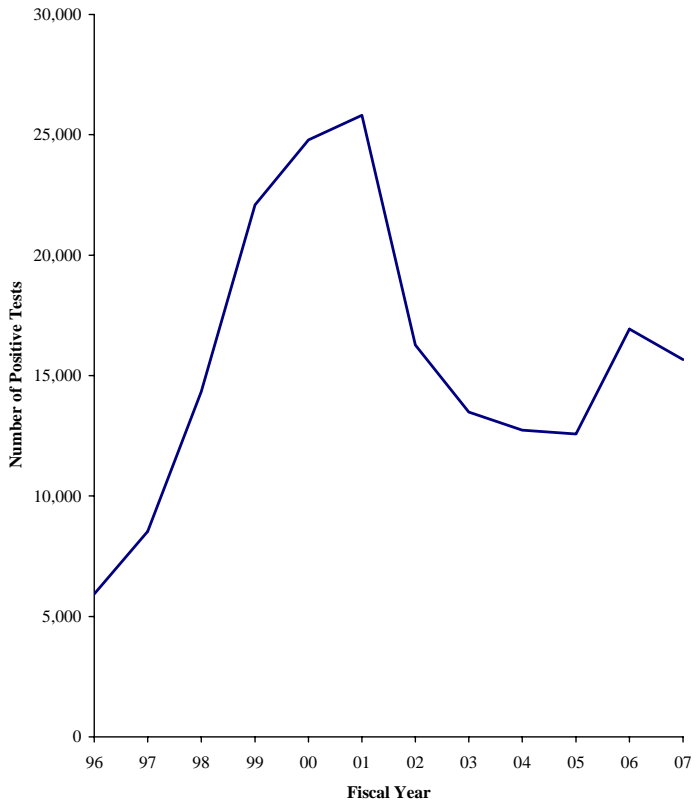
**SCDPPPS OFFENDER DRUG TESTING
FY 96 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
1996	5,936	19.6%
1997	8,526	17.5%
1998	14,339	12.2%
1999	22,095	8.1%
2000	24,787	7.5%
2001	25,816	7.5%
2002	16,270	10.9%
2003	13,481	12.9%
2004	12,735	14.6%
2005	12,572	15.3%
2006	16,940	14.2%
2007	15,668	14.2%

Notes: An offender can be tested more than once and test positive for more than one drug. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of offenders testing positive. Confessions were counted as a positive test result. Percent positive reflects the proportion of tests that detected drug use.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

SCDPPPS Drug Testing



THC, the active ingredient in marijuana and hashish, was the most substance most frequently detected among SCDPPPS offenders.

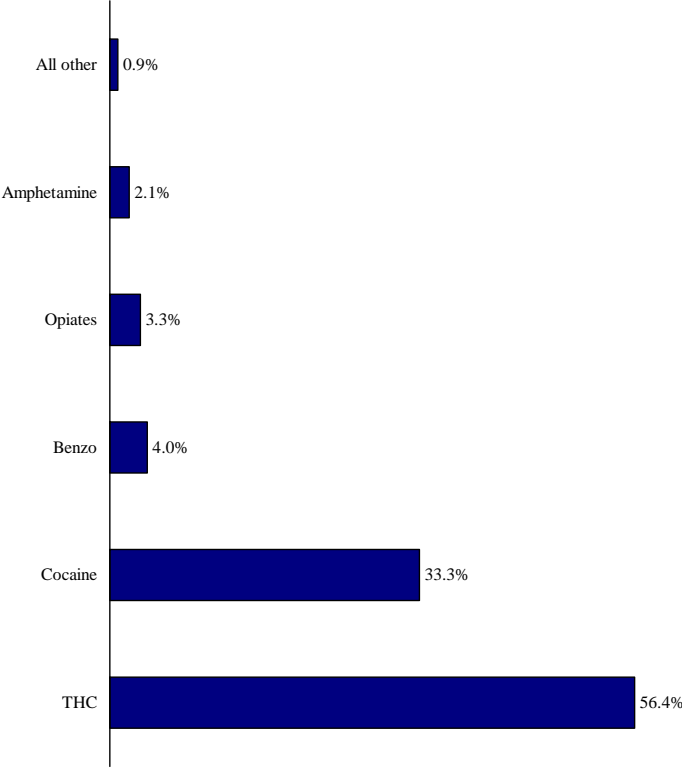
**SCDPPPS DRUG TESTING BY DRUG
FY 96 – FY 07**

Substance	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
Amphetamine	3,986	2.1%
Barbiturates	772	0.4%
Benzodiazepine	7,651	4.0%
Cocaine	62,976	33.3%
Methadone	530	0.3%
Methamphetamine	339	0.2%
Opiates	6,241	3.3%
PCP	16	<0.1%
THC	106,654	56.4%
Total	189,165	100.0%

Notes: An offender can be tested more than once and test positive for more than one drug. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of offenders testing positive. Confessions were counted as a positive test result. Percent positive reflects the proportion of tests that detected drug use. A test specifically for methamphetamine was not available until 2006. Prior to the introduction of that test, methamphetamine would have been detected by the test for amphetamines and positive results would be included in that category.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

**SCDPPPS Positive Drug Tests
FY 96 - FY 07**



Public Health Indicators

The NSDUH is administered annually by SAMHSA. A national survey of subjects 12 years and older are randomly selected to gather information concerning patterns of illegal drug use and other behaviors. Estimates of use are available at both the state and national levels. These estimates are important as indicators of overall illegal drug use.

The State Data Warehouse, maintained by ORS, houses a variety of public health data sets, among them information concerning drug related in-patient and emergency discharges (the All Payer System). Drug related was defined as involving drug induced mental disorders, drug dependence or non-dependent abuse of drugs. It is important to note that these categories could be the result of either illegal or legal drug use. Another limitation of these data was the lack of drug specific information.

The inclusion of survey estimates and public health indicators provides an important and alternative perspective to criminal justice data. Detected drug use, as represented by arrest data and admissions to SCDC or SCDPPPS, is a sub-set of the larger universe of illegal drug use. The inherently coercive nature of criminal justice institutions is such that potential “clients” typically seek to avoid their services. In contrast, survey respondents need not fear arrest or imprisonment and health services are usually sought after when needed. Consequently, these indicators provide a different, perhaps in some ways more accurate, picture of illegal drug use in South Carolina.

Among South Carolinians 12 years of age and older, 7.3% of those surveyed used illegal drugs in the previous month.

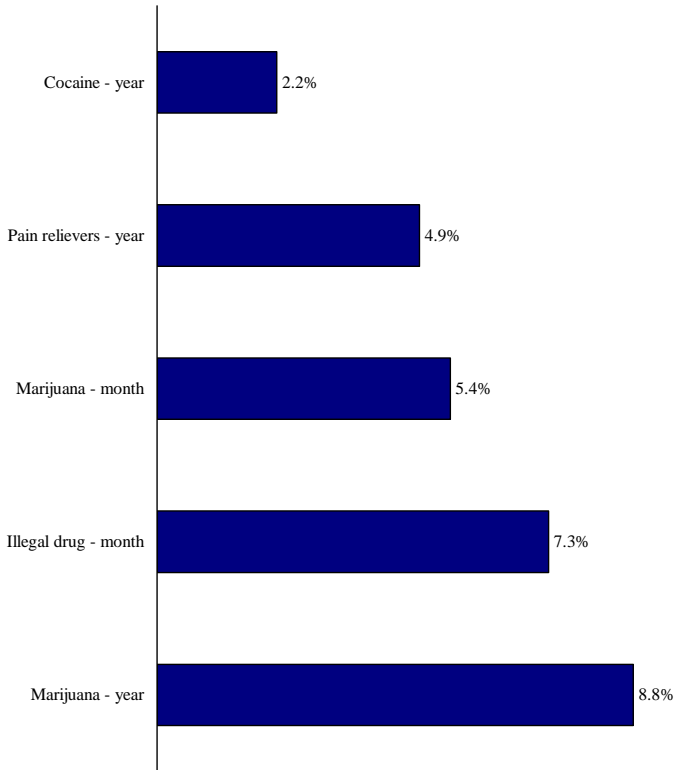
**ILLEGAL DRUG USE ESTIMATES
SOUTH CAROLINA
2005 - 2006**

Drug use	Annual Users	Estimated Percent
Cocaine past year	80,247	2.2%
Illegal drugs past month	262,067	7.3%
Marijuana past month	196,279	5.4%
Marijuana past year	318,818	8.8%
Non-medical use of pain relievers past year	175,675	4.9%

Notes: NSDUH estimates were based on the 12 years of age and older population. The number of annual users was determined by applying the NSDUH estimate of percent of South Carolinians for each category to the average estimated population over 12 years old for 2005 – 2006.

Sources: SAMHSA, NSDUH; ORS, population estimates.

Illegal Drug Use in South Carolina 2005 - 2006



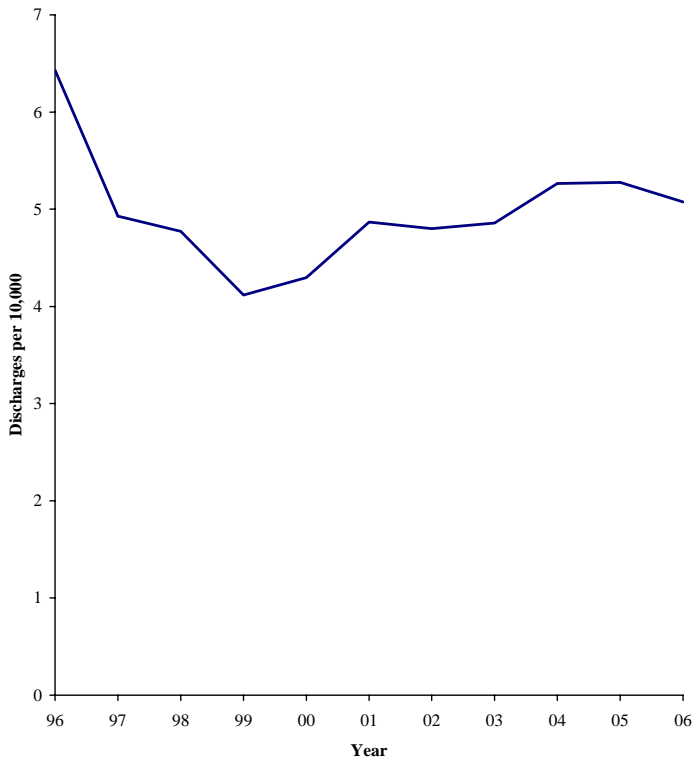
The inpatient discharge rate for drug related hospitalizations decreased 20.3% from 1996 to 2006.

**INPATIENT DRUG RELATED DISCHARGES
SOUTH CAROLINA
1996 - 2006**

Year	Discharges	Rate
1996	2,442	6.4
1997	1,903	4.9
1998	1,870	4.8
1999	1,636	4.1
2000	1,729	4.3
2001	1,978	4.9
2002	1,971	4.8
2003	2,015	4.9
2004	2,210	5.3
2005	2,245	5.3
2006	2,194	5.1

Sources: ORS, All Payer System; ORS, population estimates.

Drug Related Hospital Discharge Rate



The total cost of drug related hospitalizations increased 89.5% from 1996 to 2006. The cost per patient, adjusted for inflation, increased 64.2%.

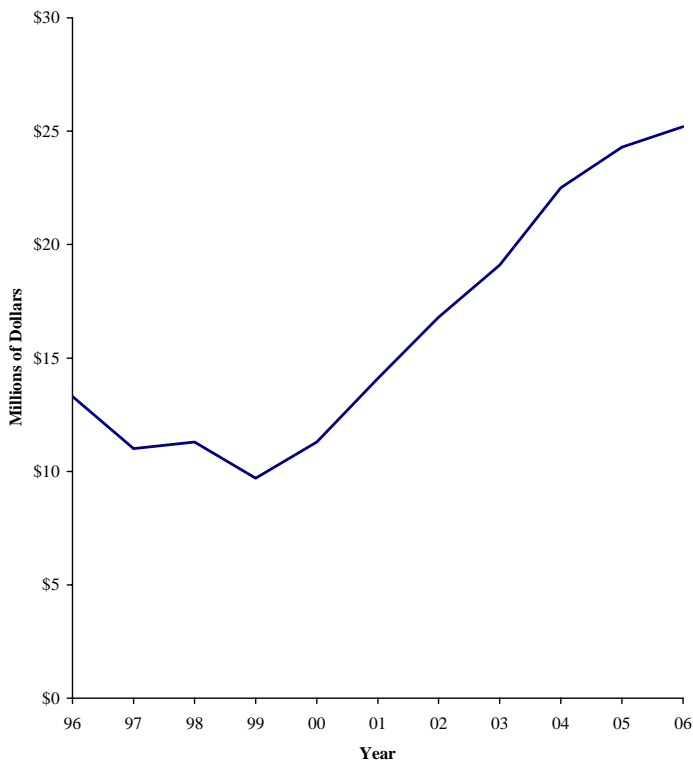
**INPATIENT DRUG RELATED COSTS
SOUTH CAROLINA
1996 – 2006**

Year	Total Cost (millions)	Cost per Patient	Adjusted Cost per Patient
1996	\$13.32	\$5,454	\$5,454
1997	\$10.97	\$5,762	\$5,633
1998	\$11.34	\$6,065	\$5,838
1999	\$9.71	\$5,934	\$5,589
2000	\$11.34	\$6,557	\$5,974
2001	\$14.16	\$7,160	\$6,343
2002	\$16.83	\$8,537	\$7,446
2003	\$19.20	\$9,527	\$8,142
2004	\$22.55	\$10,205	\$8,476
2005	\$24.30	\$10,826	\$8,697
2006	\$25.24	\$11,506	\$8,955

Notes: Total cost was rounded to the nearest hundredth. Adjusted cost per patient is expressed in 1996 dollars.

Sources: ORS, All Payer System; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index.

Cost of Drug Related Hospitalizations



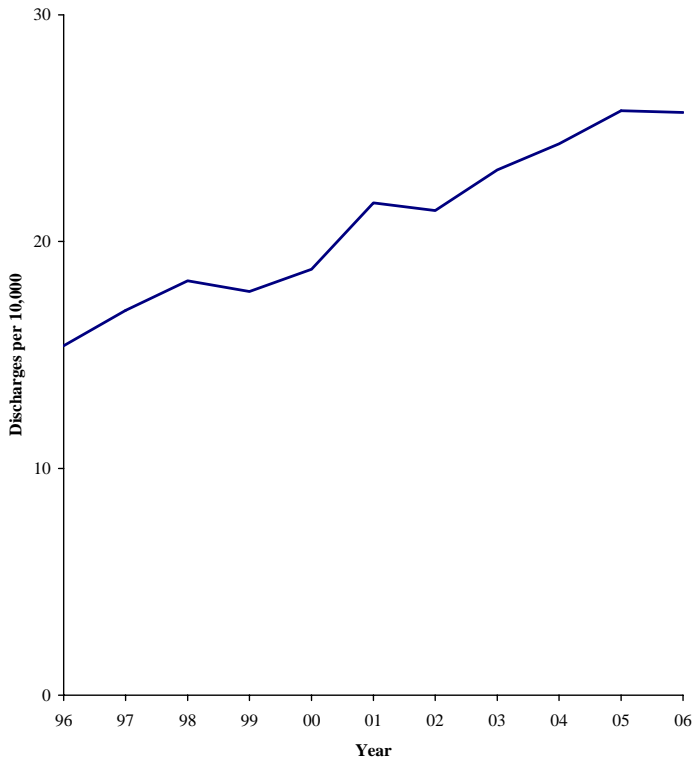
The emergency room discharge rate for drug related admissions increased 66.9% from 1996 to 2006.

**EMERGENCY ROOM DRUG RELATED
DISCHARGES
SOUTH CAROLINA
1996 - 2006**

Year	ER Discharges	Rate
1996	5,847	15.4
1997	6,548	17.0
1998	7,163	18.3
1999	7,076	17.8
2000	7,559	18.8
2001	8,818	21.7
2002	8,775	21.4
2003	9,604	23.2
2004	10,205	24.3
2005	10,967	25.8
2006	11,104	25.7

Source: ORS, All Payer System; ORS, population estimates.

Drug Related Emergency Room Discharge Rate



The overall cost related to drug related ER visits increased 602.6% from 1996 to 2006. The cost per patient, adjusted for inflation, increased 188%.

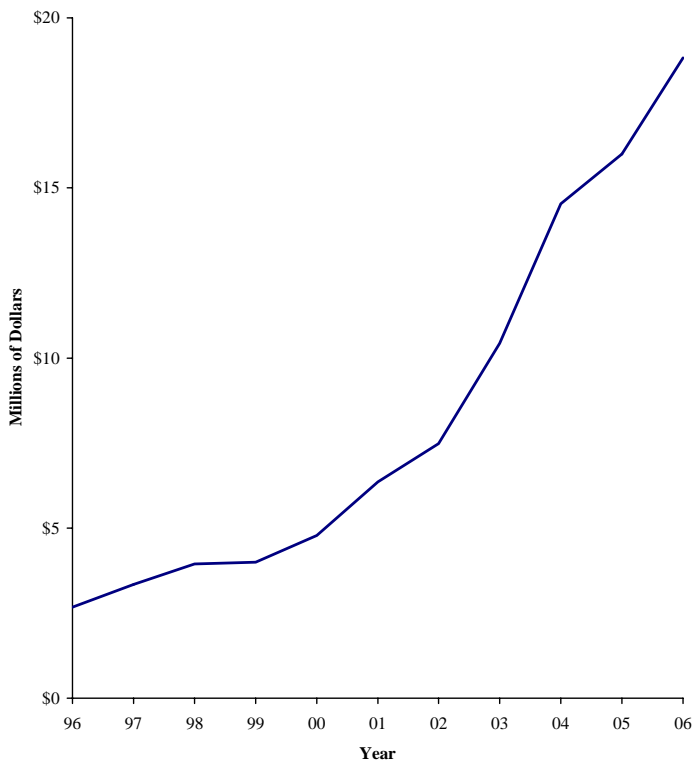
**EMERGENCY ROOM DRUG RELATED COSTS
SOUTH CAROLINA
1996 - 2006**

Year	Total Cost (millions)	Cost per Patient	Adjusted Cost per Patient
1996	\$2.68	\$458	\$458
1997	\$3.34	\$510	\$499
1998	\$3.95	\$551	\$530
1999	\$3.99	\$564	\$531
2000	\$4.79	\$633	\$577
2001	\$6.36	\$721	\$639
2002	\$7.48	\$852	\$743
2003	\$10.43	\$1,086	\$926
2004	\$14.53	\$1,424	\$1,183
2005	\$16.00	\$1,458	\$1,171
2006	\$18.83	\$1,695	\$1,319

Notes: Total cost was rounded to the nearest hundredth. Adjusted cost per patient is expressed in 1996 dollars.

Sources: ORS, All Payer System; Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index.

Cost of Drug Related Emergency Room Discharges



The 18 to 25 year age group had the highest reported illegal drug use, with 19% reporting illegal drug use in the previous month.

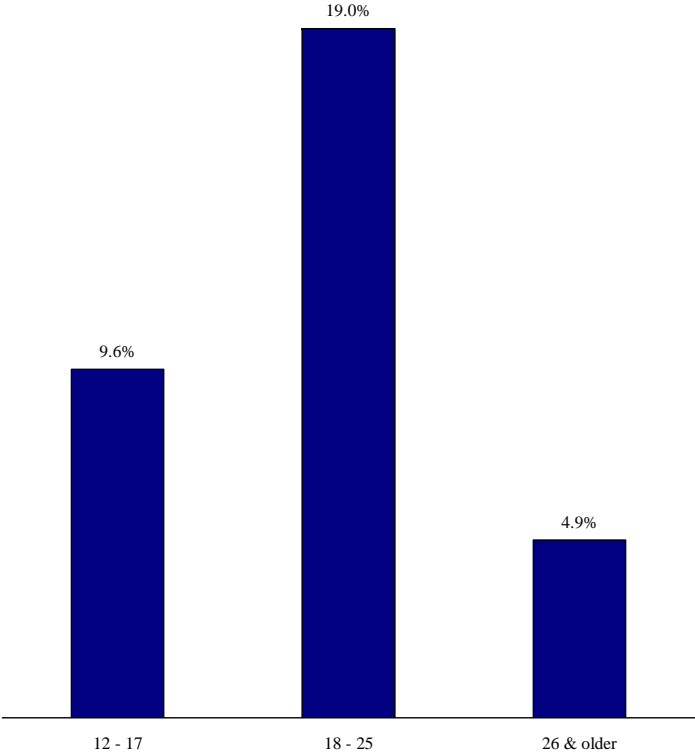
**ILLEGAL DRUG USE BY AGE
SOUTH CAROLINA
2005 - 2006**

Age Group	Annual Users	Estimated Percent
12 - 17	34,603	9.6%
18 - 25	91,584	19.0%
26 & older	135,880	4.9%
Total (12 & older)	262,067	7.3%

Notes: NSDUH estimates were based on the 12 years of age and older population. The number of annual users was determined by applying the NSDUH estimate of percent of South Carolinians to the average estimated population of each age group for 2005 – 2006.

Sources: SAMHSA, NSDUH; ORS, population estimates.

**Illegal Drug Use Previous Month
by Age, 2005 - 2006**



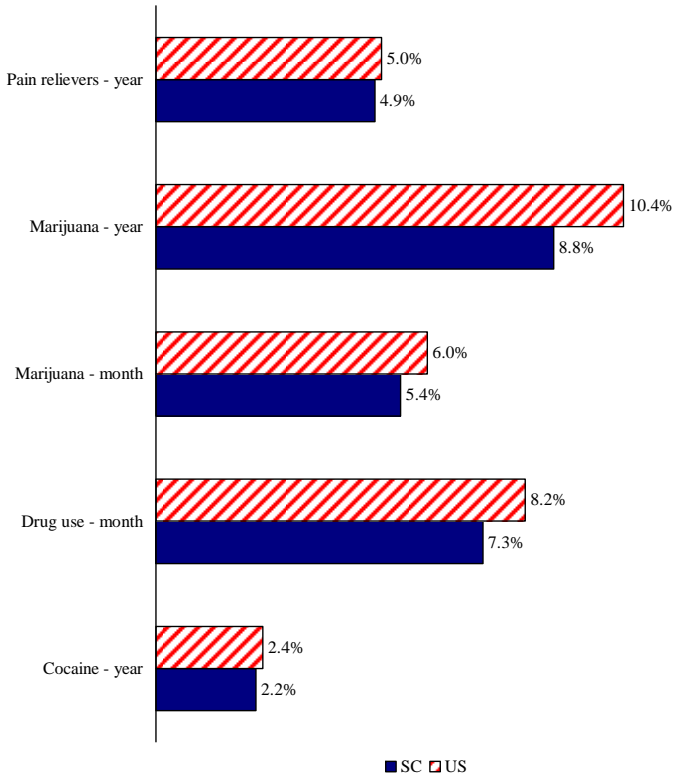
National illegal drug use estimates exceeded South Carolina's illegal drug use estimate for each category.

**STATE & NATIONAL ILLEGAL DRUG USE
2005 - 2006**

	S.C.	U.S.
Cocaine past year	2.2%	2.4%
Illegal drugs past month	7.3%	8.2%
Marijuana past month	5.4%	6.0%
Marijuana past year	8.8%	10.4%
Non-medical use of pain relievers past year	4.9%	5.0%

Note: NSDUH estimates were based on the 12 years of age and older population.
Sources: SAMHSA, NSDUH; ORS, population estimates.

State & National Illegal Drug Use 2005 - 2006



Cocaine

Cocaine was the second ranking substance among drug offenses in South Carolina from 1996 through 2006, accounting 29.3% of all drug arrests during that time period. SCIBRS data provided information concerning the circumstances associated with the cocaine related arrests, the demographic characteristics of the arrestees, as well as cocaine arrest trends over time. SCIBRS was also able to identify the two primary forms of the drug: crack cocaine and powder cocaine. The ability to distinguish between the two forms of the substance was especially important given concerns over disparate treatment between crack cocaine and powder cocaine users.

Another source of information concerning cocaine use was drug testing. Both SCDC and SCDPPPS conducted numerous drug tests of the people under their jurisdiction. The results of these tests provided yet another informative perspective on cocaine use trends. Unfortunately, these test results could not distinguish between crack cocaine and powder cocaine use. NSDUH results provided an estimate of overall cocaine use, an important contrast to measures of detected use. NSDUH results also failed to distinguish between crack cocaine and powder cocaine use.

The cocaine arrest rate increased 22.8% from 1996 to 2006.

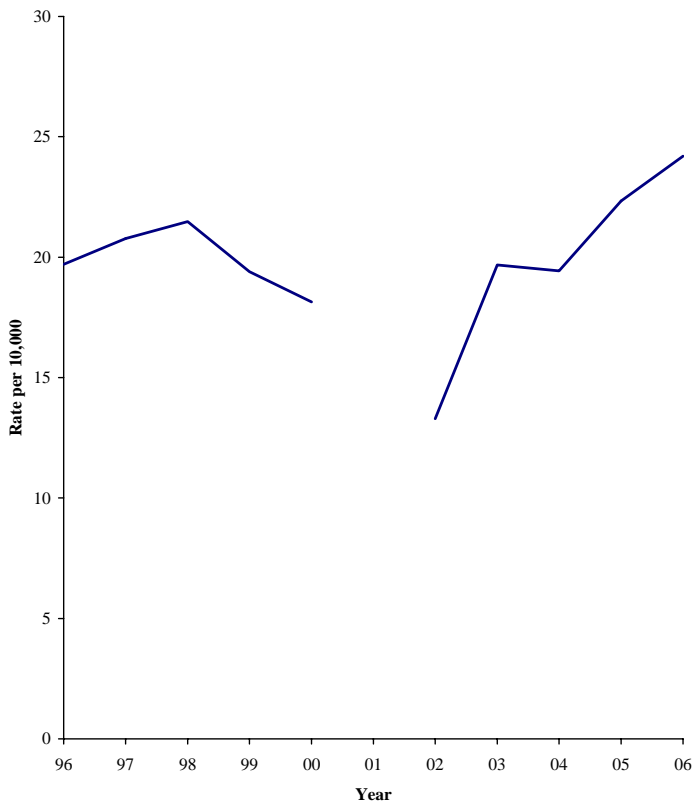
**COCAINE ARRESTS
1996 – 2006**

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	7,483	19.7	
1997	8,020	20.8	+5.4%
1998	8,418	21.5	+3.4%
1999	7,711	19.4	-9.7%
2000	7,302	18.1	-6.5%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	5,463	13.3	-26.7%
2003	8,160	19.7	+47.9%
2004	8,159	19.4	-1.2%
2005	9,506	22.3	+14.9%
2006	10,456	24.2	+8.3%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Cocaine Arrest Rate



In 2005 and 2006, 2.2% of the state population over 12 years old was estimated to have used cocaine in the past year, compared to 2.4% of the national population.

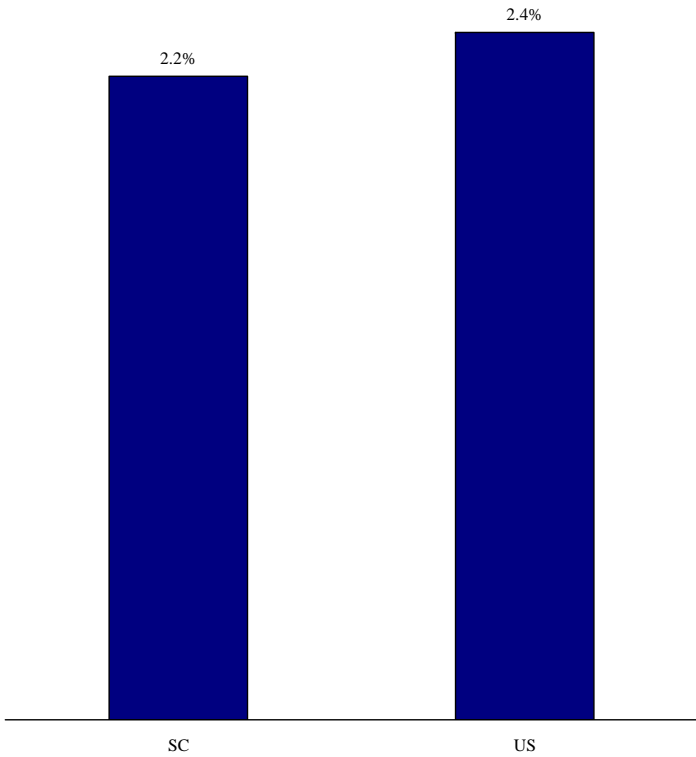
**STATE & NATIONAL COCAINE USE
PREVIOUS YEAR
2005 – 2006**

Jurisdiction	Annual Users	Estimated Percent
South Carolina	80,247	2.2%
United States	5,921,263	2.4%

Notes: NSDUH estimates were based on the 12 years of age and older population. The number of annual users was determined by applying the NSDUH estimate of the percent using cocaine both state and nationally to the respective average estimated populations over 12 years old for 2005 – 2006.

Sources: SAMHSA, NSDUH; ORS, population estimates.

State & National Cocaine Use 2005 - 2006



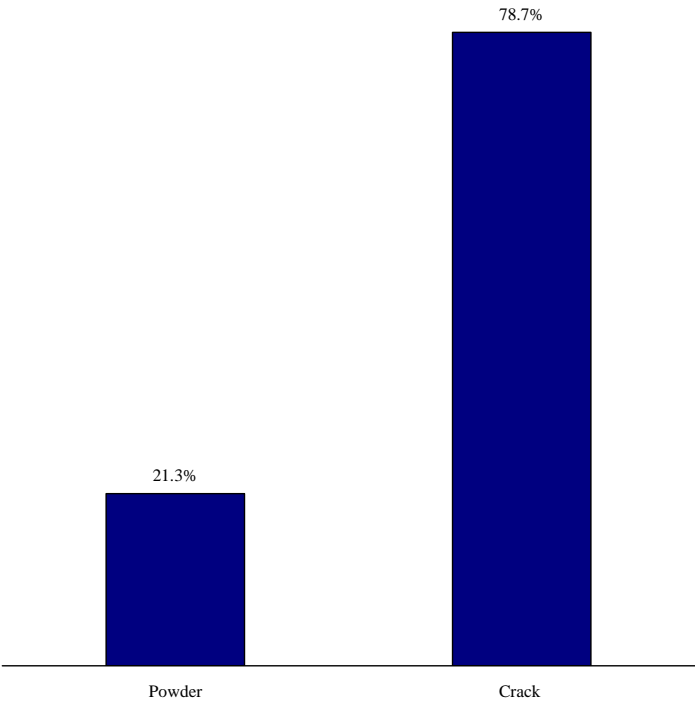
Two forms of cocaine were identified among drug arrests: crack and powder. Crack cocaine accounted for 78.7% of all cocaine arrests from 1996 through 2006.

**COCAINE ARRESTS BY TYPE OF COCAINE
1996 - 2006**

Type of Cocaine	Number	Percent
Crack	68,228	78.7%
Powder	18,516	21.3%
Total	86,744	100.0%

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

**Cocaine Arrests by Type of Cocaine
1996 - 2006**



The crack cocaine arrest rate decreased 4.6% from 1996 to 2006.

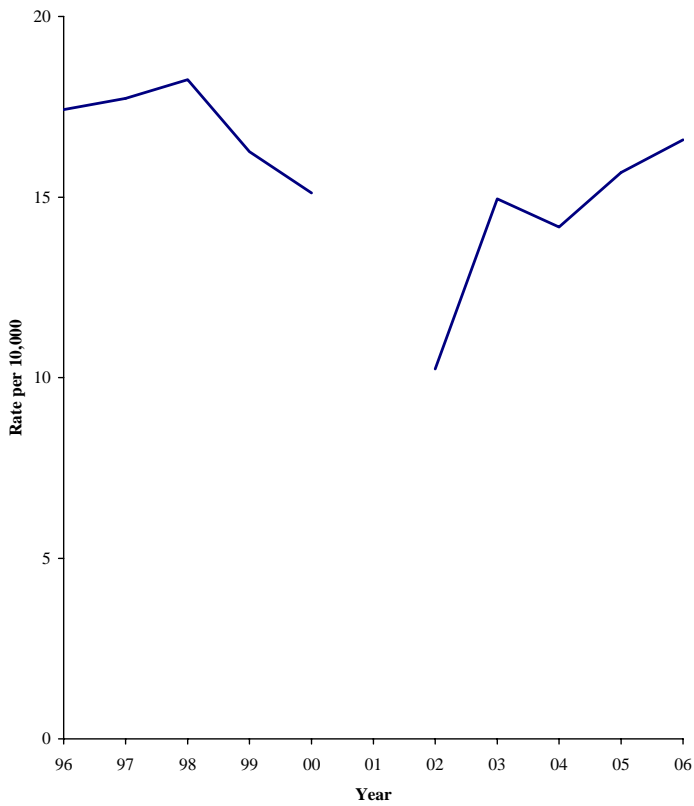
**CRACK COCAINE ARRESTS
1996 – 2006**

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	6,615	17.4	
1997	6,841	17.7	+1.7%
1998	7,151	18.2	+2.9%
1999	6,460	16.3	-10.9%
2000	6,079	15.1	-7.0%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	4,207	10.2	-32.2%
2003	6,197	14.9	+45.9%
2004	5,946	14.2	-5.2%
2005	6,672	15.7	+10.7%
2006	7,168	16.6	+5.8%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Crack Cocaine Arrest Rate



The powder cocaine arrest rate increased 230.4% from 1996 to 2006.

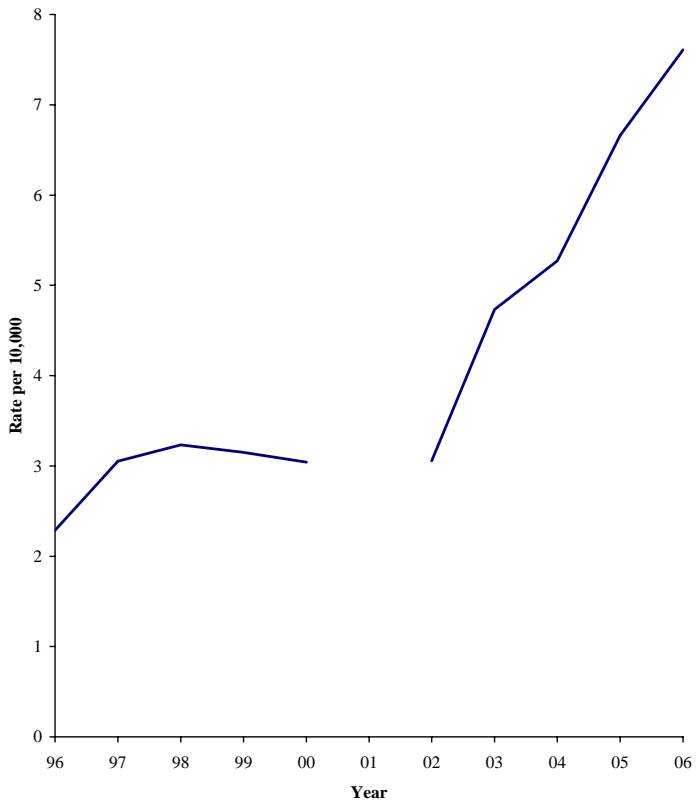
POWDER COCAINE ARRESTS
1996 – 2006

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	868	2.3	
1997	1,179	3.1	+33.6%
1998	1,267	3.2	+5.8%
1999	1,251	3.1	-2.6%
2000	1,223	3.0	-3.4%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	1,256	3.1	+0.6%
2003	1,963	4.7	+54.8%
2004	2,213	5.3	+11.4%
2005	2,834	6.7	+26.3%
2006	3,288	7.6	+14.2%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Powder Cocaine Arrest Rate



Personal use offenses accounted for 53.6% of all cocaine arrests, commercial offenses accounted for 46.4%.

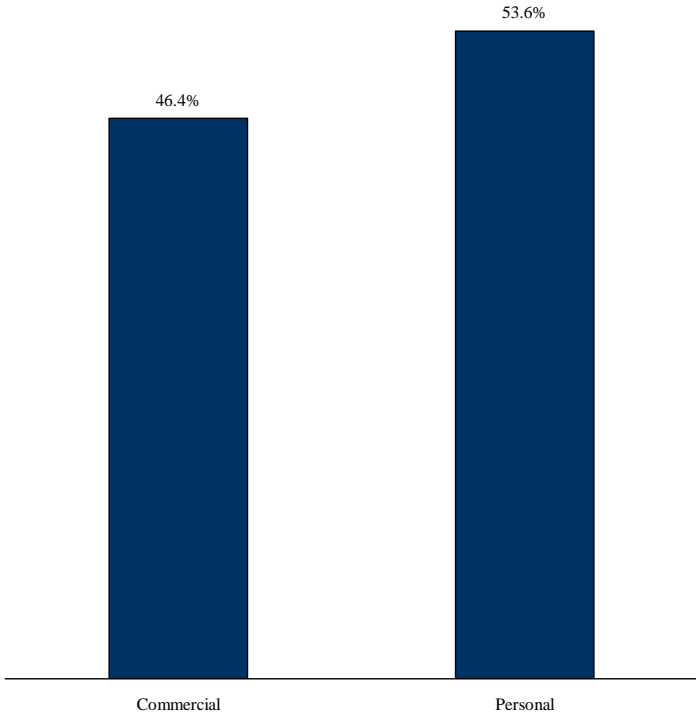
**COCAINE ARRESTS BY TYPE
DRUG ACTIVITY
1996 – 2006**

Type Activity	Number	Percent
Commercial	40,293	46.4%
Buy/Receive	941	1.1%
Cultivate/Mfg/Publish	292	0.3%
Distribute/Sell	34,357	39.6%
Exploit Children	37	0.0%
Operating/ Assisting	61	0.1%
Transport/Import	4,605	5.3%
Personal Use	46,451	53.6%
Possession	46,052	53.1%
Use/Consume	399	0.5%
Total	86,744	100.0%

Notes: Categories in bold are major groupings, categories in regular type are sub-groupings. The categories Commercial and Personal Use were constructed for the purpose of this report and are not a standard SCIBRS category. The sub-group Distribute/Sell includes possession with intent to distribute. The sub-group Possession includes simple possession.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Cocaine Arrests by Type Drug Activity, 1996 - 2006



Crack cocaine arrests were 48.9% commercial and 51.1% personal use. Powder cocaine arrests were 62.5% personal use and 37.5% commercial.

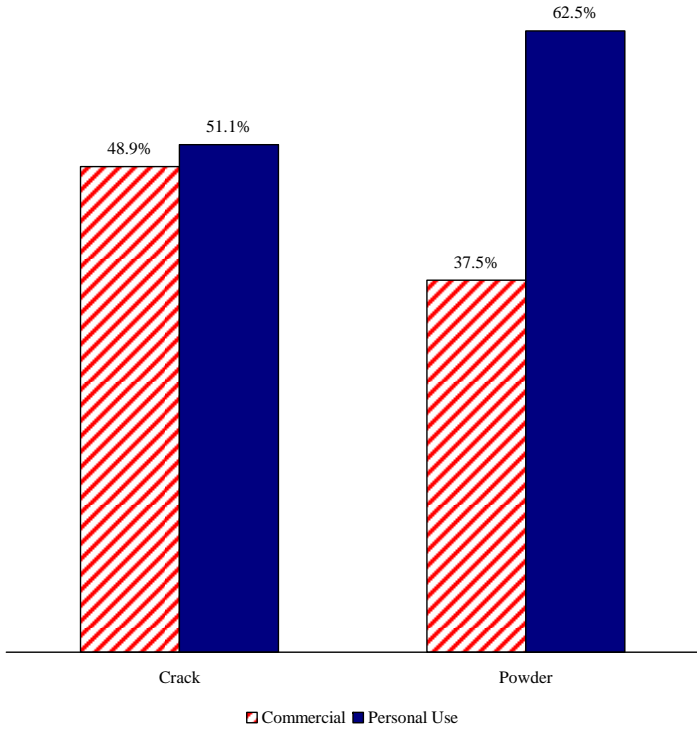
**COCAINE ARRESTS
BY TYPE DRUG ACTIVITY
CRACK VS. POWDER
1996 – 2006**

Type Activity	Percent of Crack Arrests	Percent of Powder Arrests
Commercial	48.9%	37.5%
Buy/Receive	1.3%	0.6%
Cultivate/Mfg/Publish	0.3%	0.4%
Distribute/Sell	43.1%	26.8%
Exploit Children	<0.1%	<0.1%
Operating/ Assisting	0.1%	0.1%
Transport/Import	4.1%	9.6%
Personal Use	51.1%	62.5%
Possession	50.7%	61.7%
Use/Consume	0.4%	0.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Notes: Categories in bold are major groupings, categories in regular type are sub-groupings. The categories Commercial and Personal Use were constructed for the purpose of this report and are not a standard SCIBRS category. The sub-group Distribute/Sell includes possession with intent to distribute. The sub-group Possession includes simple possession.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Crack vs. Powder by Type Drug Activity, 1996 - 2006



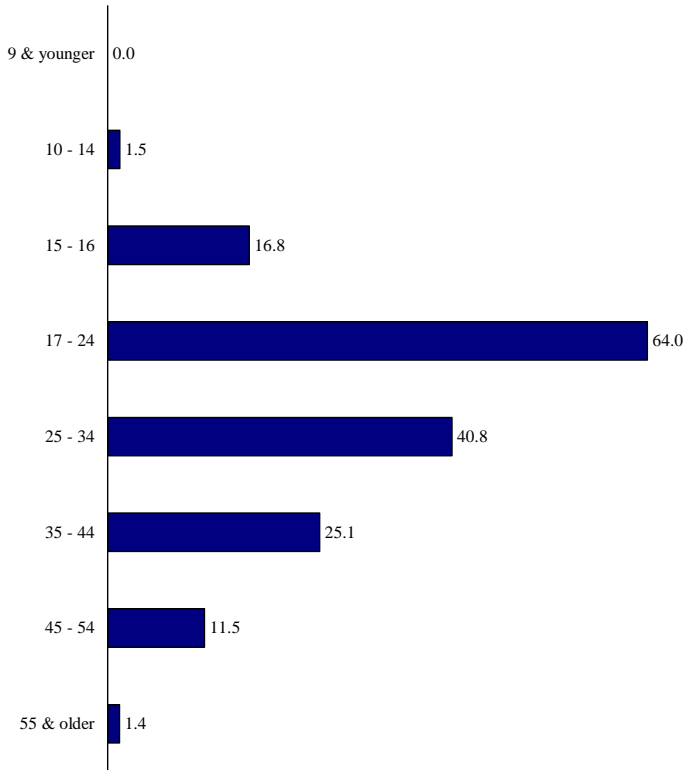
The cocaine arrest rate was highest among young adults from 17 to 24 years old. The median age of people arrested for cocaine offenses was 27 years.

COCAINE ARRESTS BY AGE
1996 – 2006

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Juvenile	2,634	3.0%	2.5
9 & younger	3	<0.1%	<0.1
10 - 14	461	0.5%	1.5
15 - 16	2,170	2.5%	16.8
Adult	83,969	97.0%	24.6
17 - 24	32,993	38.0%	64.0
25 - 34	25,521	29.5%	40.8
35 - 44	17,020	19.7%	25.1
45 - 54	7,051	8.2%	11.5
55 & older	1,384	1.6%	1.4
Total	86,603	100.0%	19.4

Notes: By South Carolina statute, 17 is generally the age of adult criminal responsibility. One hundred forty one arrestees were missing age data.
Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Cocaine Arrest Rate by Age 1996 - 2006



The 18 to 25 year old age group had the highest frequency of cocaine use, with 5.9% reporting use in the previous year.

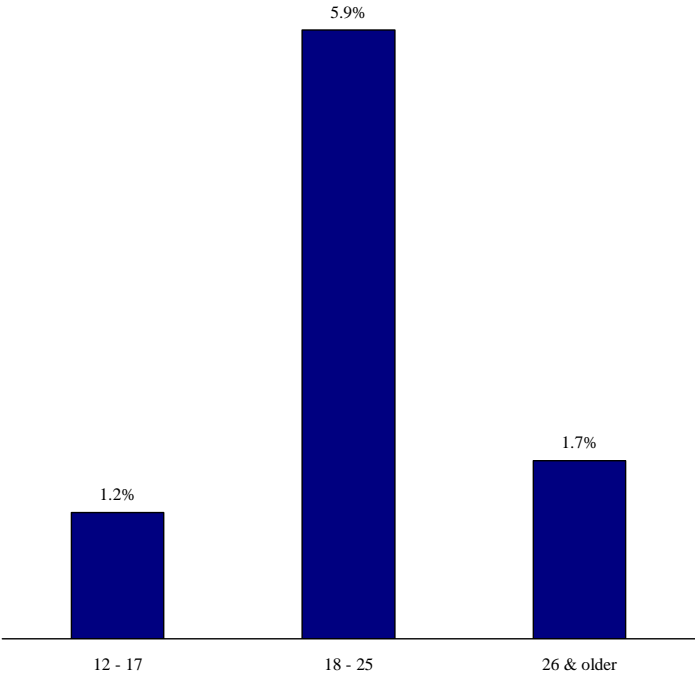
**COCAINE USE PREVIOUS YEAR BY AGE
SOUTH CAROLINA
2005 - 2006**

Age group	Annual Users	Estimated Percent
12 - 17	4,392	1.2%
18 - 25	28,326	5.9%
26 & older	47,695	1.7%
Total (12 & older)	80,413	2.2%

Notes: NSDUH estimates are based on the 12 years of age and older population. The number of annual users was determined by applying the NSDUH estimate of percent of South Carolinians to the average estimated population for each age group for 2005 and 2006

Sources: SAMHSA, NSDUH; ORS, population estimates.

**Cocaine Use Previous Year by Age
2005 - 2006**



The highest arrest rate for both crack and powder cocaine was among 17 to 24 year old adults. The crack cocaine arrest rate was higher than the powder cocaine arrest rate for all age groups. The median age for both crack and powder arrestees was 27.

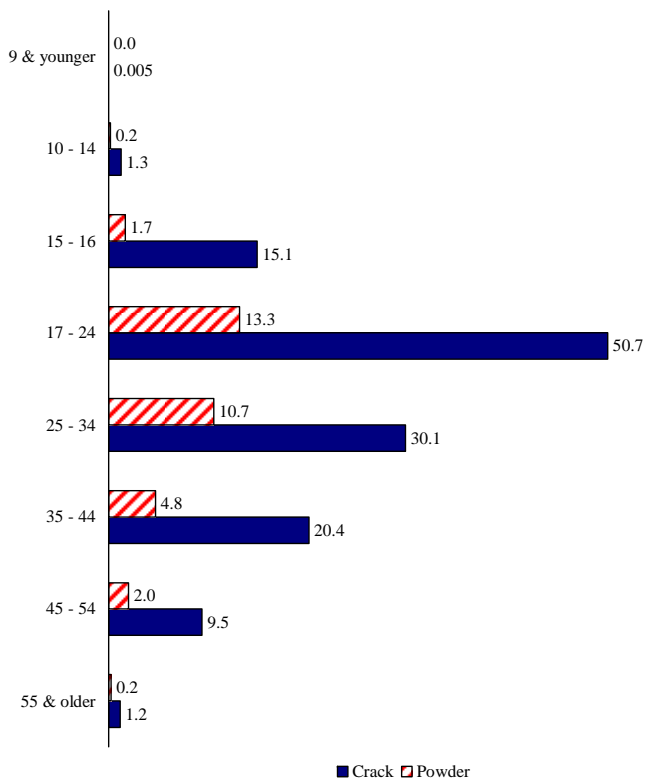
**COCAINE ARREST RATE BY AGE
CRACK VS. POWDER
1996 – 2006**

Age Group	Crack Arrest Rate	Powder Arrest Rate
Juvenile	2.3	0.3
9 & younger	<0.1	0.0
10 - 14	1.3	0.2
15 - 16	15.1	1.7
Adult	19.2	5.3
17 - 24	50.7	13.3
25 - 34	30.1	10.7
35 - 44	20.4	4.8
45 - 54	9.5	2.0
55 & older	1.2	0.2
Total	15.3	4.1

Note: By South Carolina statute, 17 is generally the age of adult criminal responsibility.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Crack vs. Powder Arrest Rate by Age 1996 - 2006



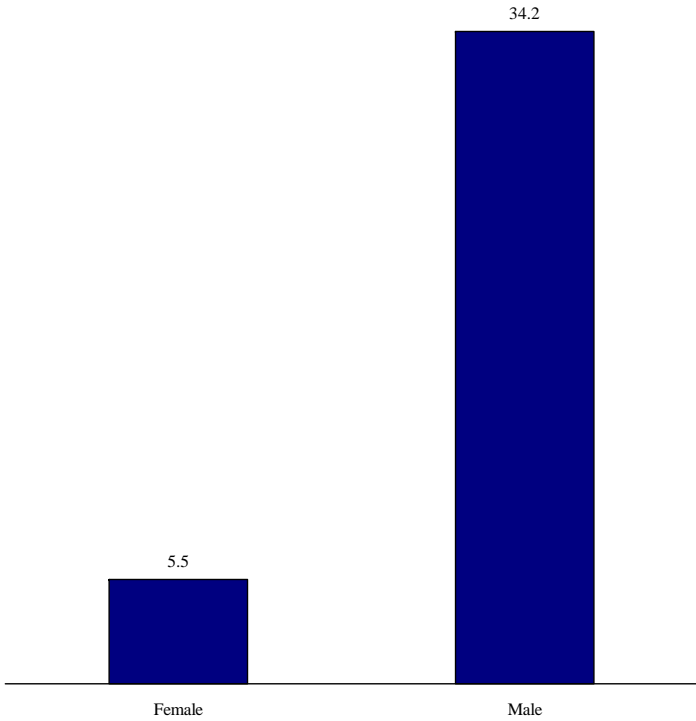
***Males accounted for 85.5% of cocaine arrests.
The cocaine arrest rate for males was 521.8%
higher than the cocaine arrest rate for females.***

**COCAINE ARRESTS BY SEX
1996 – 2006**

Sex	Number	Percent	Rate
Female	12,569	14.5%	5.5
Male	74,175	85.5%	34.2
Total	86,744	100.0%	19.4

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Cocaine Arrest Rate by Age 1996 - 2006



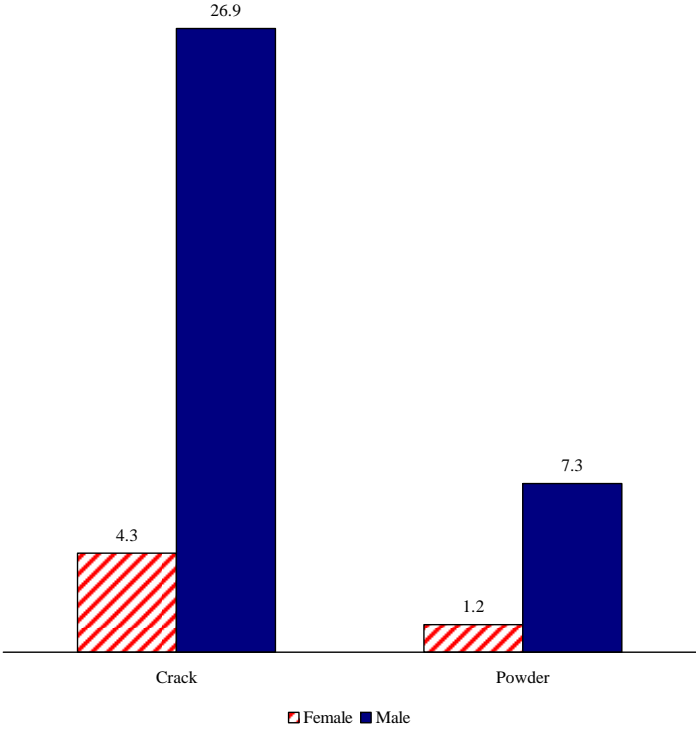
The crack cocaine arrest rate for males was 525.6% higher than the crack cocaine arrest rate for females. The powder cocaine arrest rate for males was 508.3% higher than the powder cocaine arrest rate for females.

**COCAINE ARRESTS BY SEX
CRACK VS. POWDER
1996 – 2006**

Sex	Crack Arrest Rate	Powder Arrest Rate
Female	4.3	1.2
Male	26.9	7.3
Total	15.3	4.1

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

**Crack vs. Powder Arrest Rate by Sex
1996 - 2006**



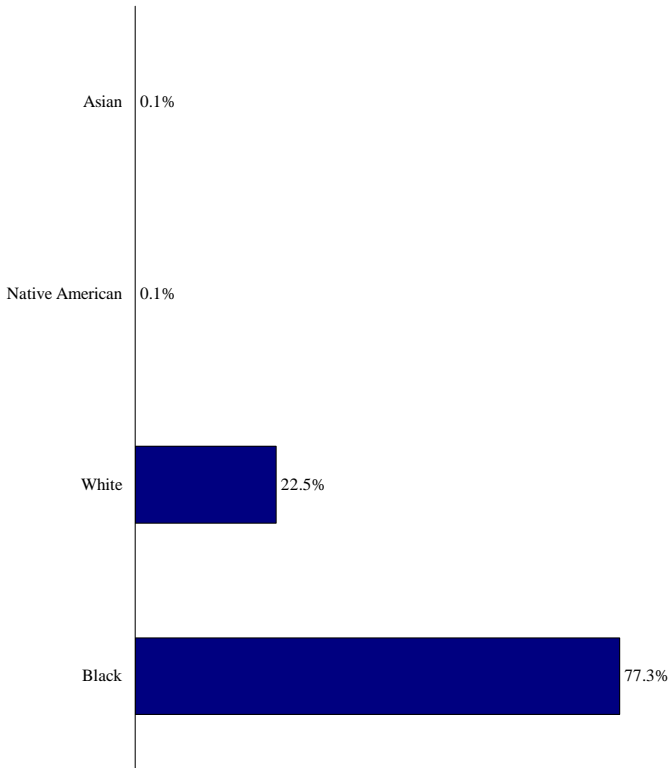
Blacks accounted for 77.3% of all cocaine arrests, Whites accounted for 22.5%.

**COCAINE ARRESTS BY RACE
1996 – 2006**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	73	0.1%
Black	66,999	77.3%
Native American	96	0.1%
White	19,507	22.5%
Total	86,675	100.0%

Note: Sixty nine arrestees were of unknown race.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Cocaine Arrests by Race 1996 - 2006



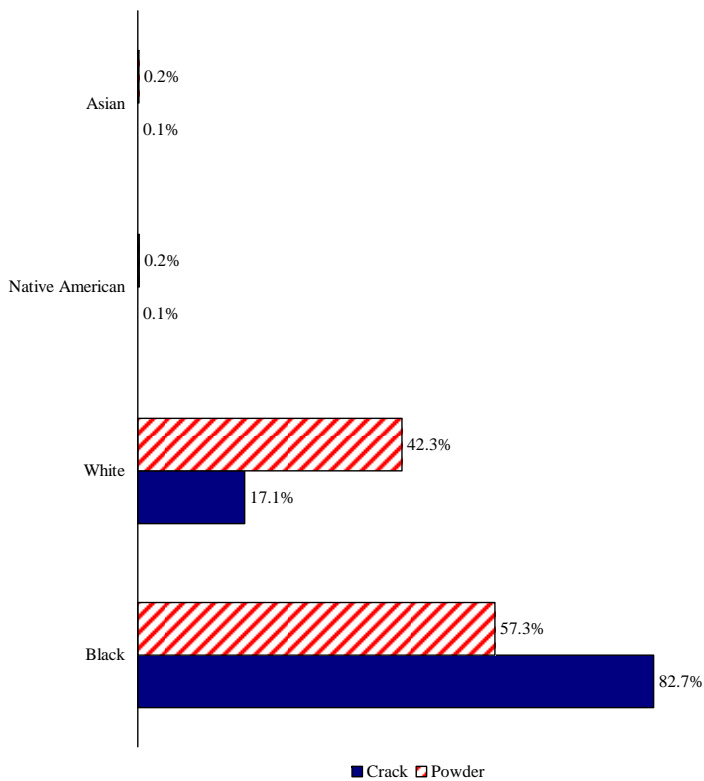
Blacks accounted for 82.7% of crack cocaine arrests, Whites 17.1%. Blacks comprised 57.3% of powder cocaine arrestees, Whites 42.3%.

**COCAINE ARRESTS BY RACE
CRACK VS. POWDER
1996 – 2006**

Race	Percent of Crack Arrests	Percent of Powder Arrests
Asian	0.1%	0.2%
Black	82.7%	57.3%
Native American	0.1%	0.2%
White	17.1%	42.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Crack vs. Powder Arrests by Race 1996 - 2006



The cocaine arrest rate for Non-Whites was 640.6% higher than the arrest rate for Whites.

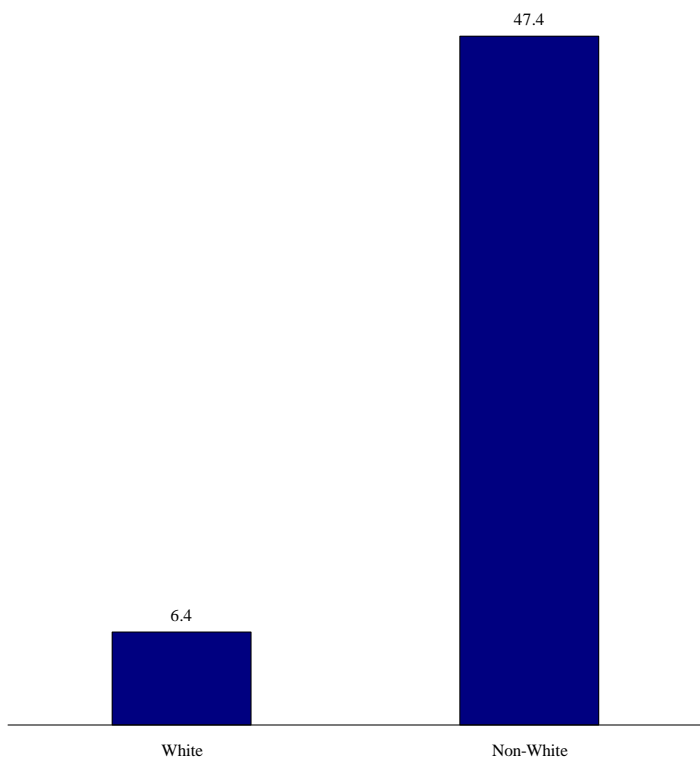
**COCAINE ARRESTS BY RACIAL GROUP
1996 – 2006**

Racial Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Non-White	67,168	77.5%	47.4
White	19,507	22.5%	6.4
Total	86,675	100.0%	19.4

Notes: Sixty nine arrestees were of unknown race. The Non-White racial group was defined as Asian, Black and Native American.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Cocaine Arrest Rate by Racial Group 1996 - 2006



The crack cocaine arrest rate for Non-Whites was 950% higher than the crack cocaine arrest rate for Whites. The powder cocaine arrest rate for Non-Whites was 188.5% higher than the powder cocaine arrest rate for Whites.

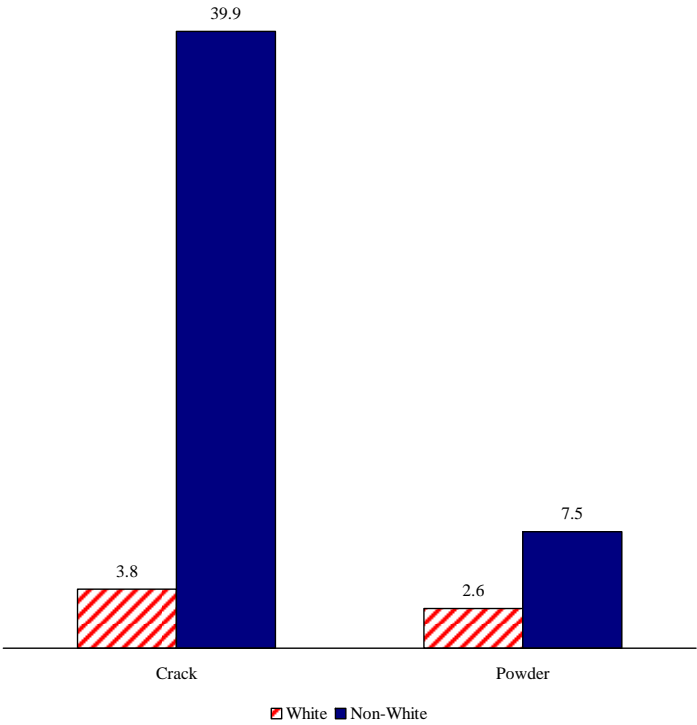
**COCAINE ARREST RATE BY RACIAL GROUP
CRACK VS. POWDER
1996 – 2006**

Racial Group	Crack Arrest Rate	Powder Arrest Rate
Non-White	39.9	7.5
White	3.8	2.6
Total	15.3	4.1

Note: The Non-White racial group was defined as Asian, Black and Native American.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

**Crack vs. Powder Arrest Rate
by Racial Group, 1996 - 2006**



The cocaine arrest rate for Non-Hispanics was 20.2% higher than the cocaine arrest rate for Hispanics.

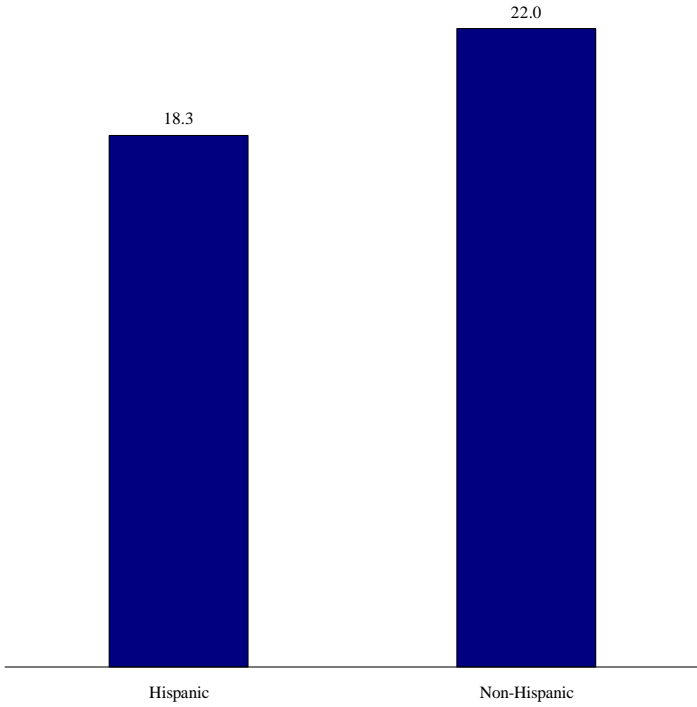
**COCAINE ARRESTS BY ETHNICITY
2004 – 2006**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Rate
Hispanic	770	2.8%	18.3
Non-Hispanic	27,211	97.2%	22.0
Total	27,981	100.0%	22.0

Notes: One hundred forty arrestees were of unknown ethnicity. The total rate was calculated on the basis of all arrestees. Due to the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in recent years, data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 were used.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Cocaine Arrest Rate by Ethnicity 2004 - 2006



The crack cocaine arrest rate for Non-Hispanics was 259.1% higher than the crack cocaine arrest rate for Hispanics. The powder cocaine arrest rate for Hispanics was 122.6% higher than the powder cocaine arrest rate for Non-Hispanics.

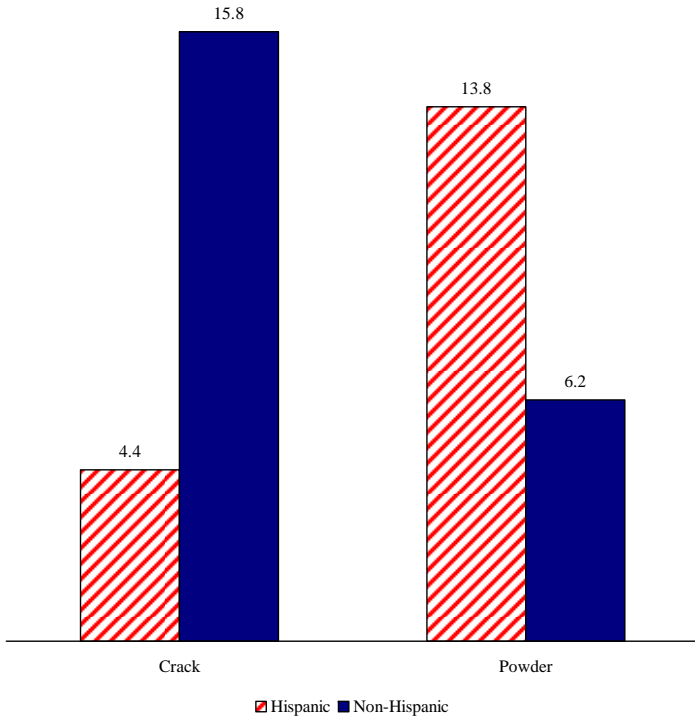
**COCAINE ARREST RATE BY ETHNICITY
CRACK VS. POWDER
2004 – 2006**

Ethnicity	Crack Arrest Rate	Powder Arrest Rate
Hispanic	4.4	13.8
Non-Hispanic	15.8	6.2
Total	15.5	6.5

Notes: Due to the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in recent years, data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 were used.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Crack vs. Powder Arrest Rate by Ethnicity, 2004 - 2006



Positive tests for cocaine among inmates peaked in FY 06 with 459 positive tests.

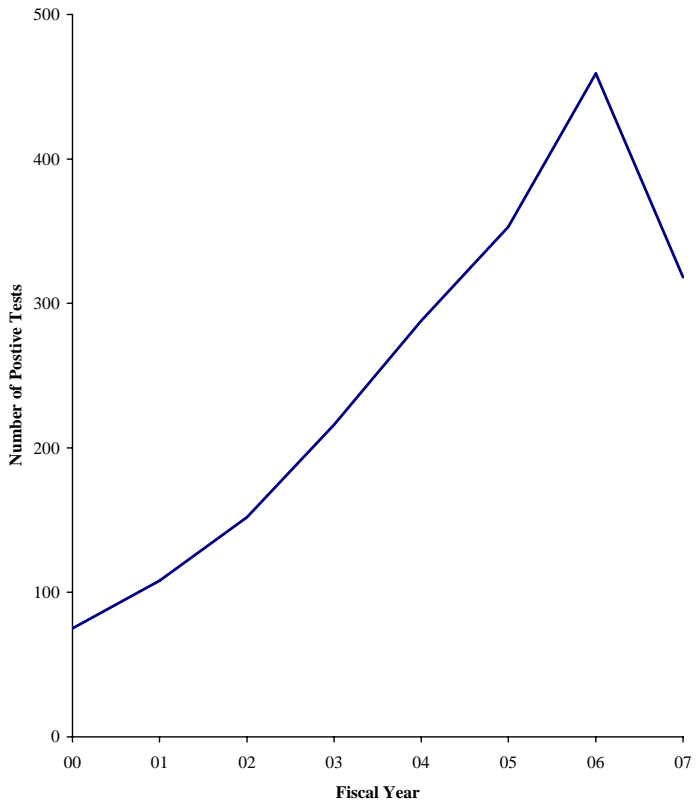
**PRISON DRUG TESTING
COCAINE
FY 00 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
2000	75	11.5%
2001	108	9.1%
2002	152	11.7%
2003	216	20.2%
2004	288	16.9%
2005	353	23.7%
2006	459	34.1%
2007	318	24.5%

Notes: An inmate can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of inmates testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of cocaine tests that detected cocaine use.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Positive Cocaine Tests in Prison



The number of positive tests for cocaine among SCDPPPS offenders peaked at 8,380 in FY 01.

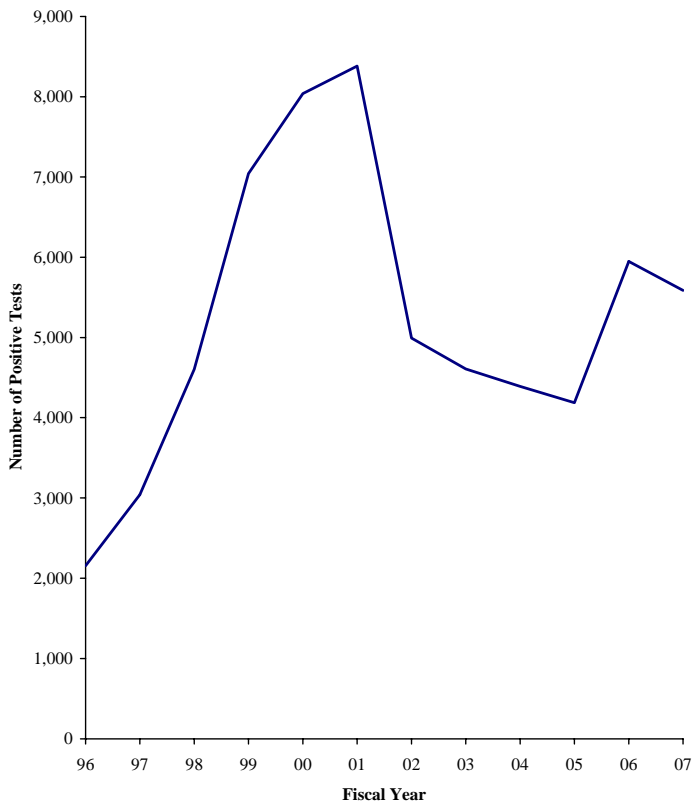
**SCDPPPS OFFENDER DRUG TESTING
COCAINE
FY 96 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
1996	2,159	14.6%
1997	3,040	14.8%
1998	4,606	12.4%
1999	7,041	11.0%
2000	8,038	11.0%
2001	8,380	10.8%
2002	4,994	11.4%
2003	4,609	13.9%
2004	4,391	16.0%
2005	4,186	16.8%
2006	5,945	17.1%
2007	5,587	17.6%

Notes: An offender can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of offenders testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of cocaine tests that detected cocaine use.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

Positive Cocaine Tests - SCDPPPS



Marijuana

Marijuana was the top ranking substance among drug arrests in South Carolina from 1996 through 2006, accounting 64.2% of all drug arrests during that time period. SCIBRS provides information concerning the circumstances associated with marijuana arrests, the demographic characteristics of people arrested for marijuana violations and trends for marijuana arrests over time.

Drug testing was another valuable source of information concerning marijuana use. THC, the active ingredient in marijuana and hashish, was the illicit substance most often detected in SCDC and SCDPPPS drug testing among inmates and offenders under community corrections supervision. NSDUH results also listed marijuana as the leading illegal substance of choice.

The arrest rate for marijuana increased 37.9% from 1996 to 2006.

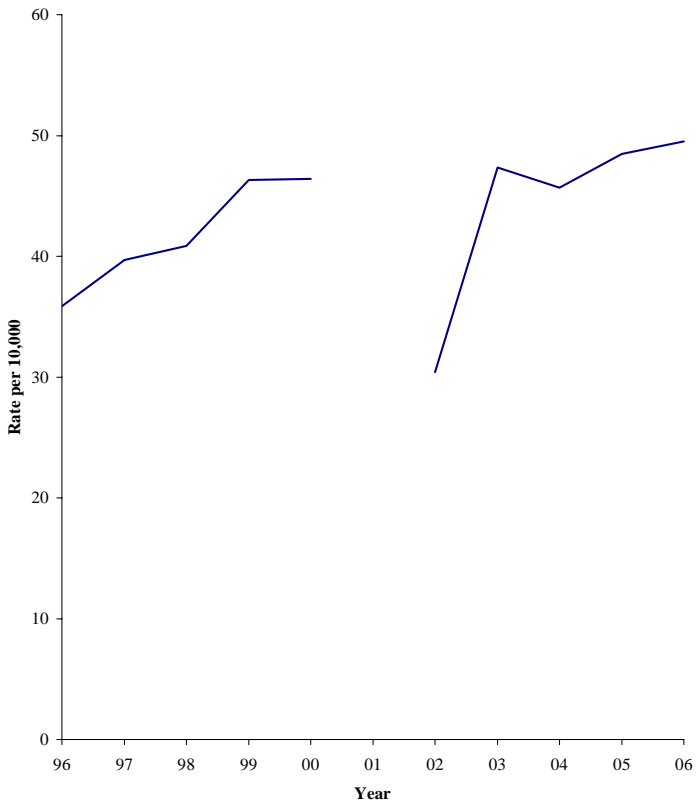
**MARIJUANA ARRESTS
1996 – 2006**

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	13,621	35.9	
1997	15,318	39.7	+10.6%
1998	16,020	40.9	+3.0%
1999	18,404	46.3	+13.3%
2000	18,665	46.4	+0.2%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	12,493	30.4	-34.4%
2003	19,645	47.4	+55.7%
2004	19,169	45.7	-3.6%
2005	20,629	48.5	+6.2%
2006	21,387	49.5	+2.1%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Marijuana Arrest Rate



Marijuana use was estimated at 5.4% of the population using in the previous month and 8.8% using in the previous year.

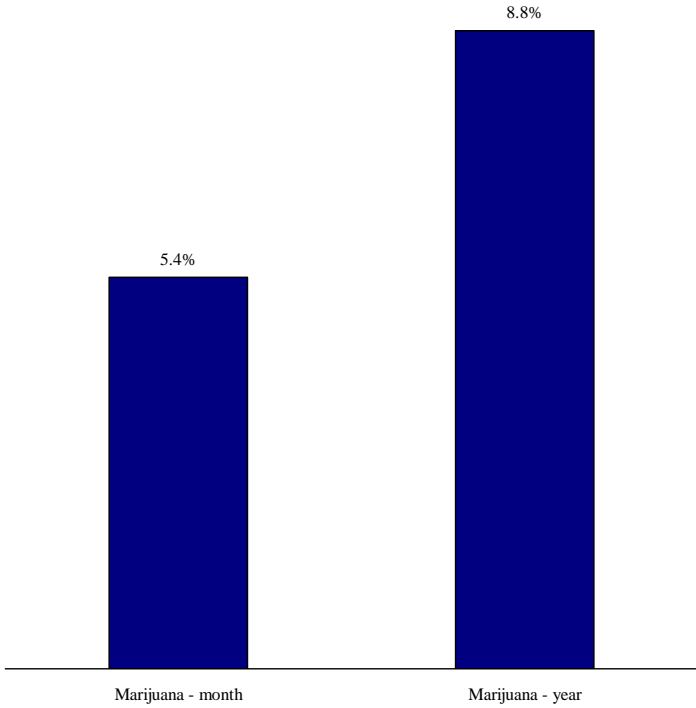
**MARIJUANA USE IN SOUTH CAROLINA
2005 – 2006**

Drug Use	Annual Users	Estimated Percent
Marijuana last month	196,279	5.4%
Marijuana last year	318,818	8.8%

Notes: NSDUH estimates were based on the 12 years of age and older population. The number of annual users was determined by applying the NSDUH estimate of percent of South Carolinians using marijuana to the average estimated population over 12 years old for 2005 – 2006.

Sources: SAMHSA, NSDUH; ORS, population estimates.

Marijuana Use in South Carolina 2005 - 2006



Personal use accounted for 88.4% of marijuana arrests, commercial offenses 11.6%.

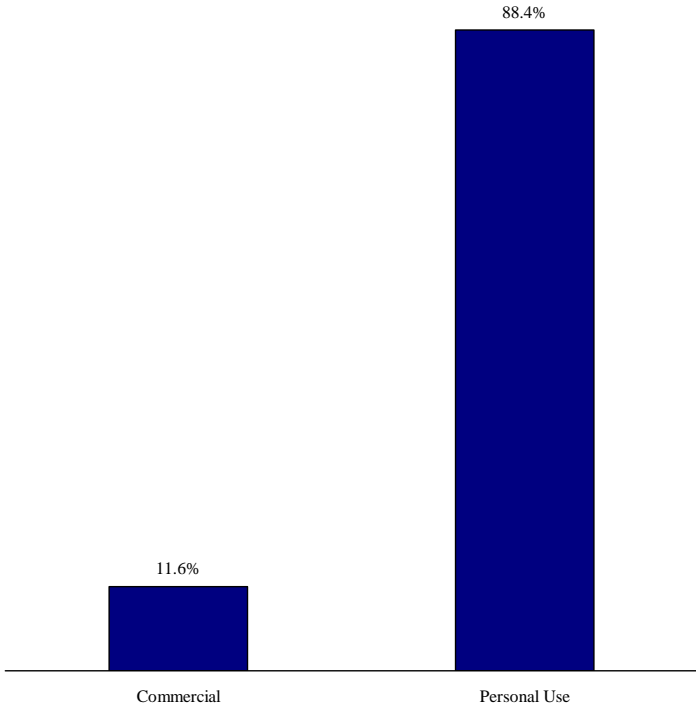
**MARIJUANA ARRESTS BY TYPE OF
DRUG ACTIVITY
1996 – 2006**

Drug Activity	Number	Percent
Commercial	21,974	11.6%
Buy/Receive	519	0.3%
Cultivate/Mfg/Publish	1,768	0.9%
Distribute/Sell	18,452	9.7%
Exploit Children	26	<0.1%
Operating/ Assisting	153	0.1%
Transport/Import	1,056	0.6%
Personal Use	168,284	88.4%
Possession	165,701	87.1%
Use/Consume	2,583	1.3%
Total	190,258	100.0%

Notes: Categories in bold are major groupings, categories in regular type are sub-groupings. The categories Commercial and Personal Use were constructed for the purpose of this report and are not a standard SCIBRS category. The sub-group Distribute/Sell includes possession with intent to distribute. The sub-group Possession includes simple possession.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Marijuana Arrests by Type Drug Activity, 1996 - 2006



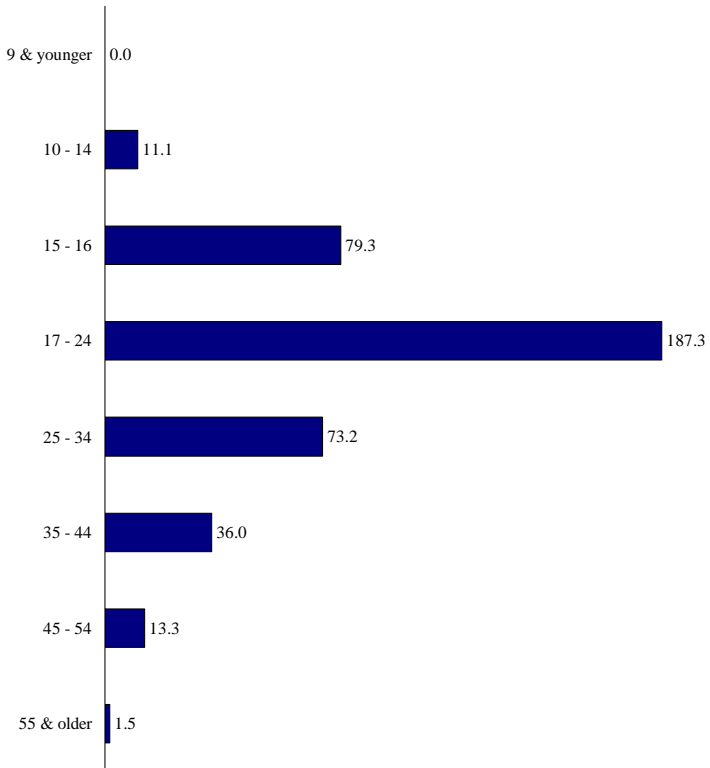
Young adults from 17 to 24 years old accounted for 50.8% of marijuana arrests and had the highest arrest rate among the age groups. The median age of people arrested for marijuana was 23 years.

**MARIJUANA ARRESTS BY AGE
1996 – 2006**

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Juvenile	13,754	7.2%	13.2
9 & younger	14	<0.1%	<0.1
10 - 14	3,497	1.8%	11.1
15 - 16	10,243	5.4%	79.3
Adult	176,377	92.8%	51.5
17 - 24	96,572	50.8%	187.3
25 - 34	45,777	24.1%	73.2
35 - 44	24,348	12.8%	36.0
45 - 54	8,152	4.3%	13.3
55 & older	1,488	0.8%	1.5
Total	190,091	100.0%	42.6

Notes: By South Carolina statute, 17 is generally the age of adult criminal responsibility. One hundred seventy seven arrestees were missing age data.
Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Marijuana Arrest Rate by Age 1996 - 2006



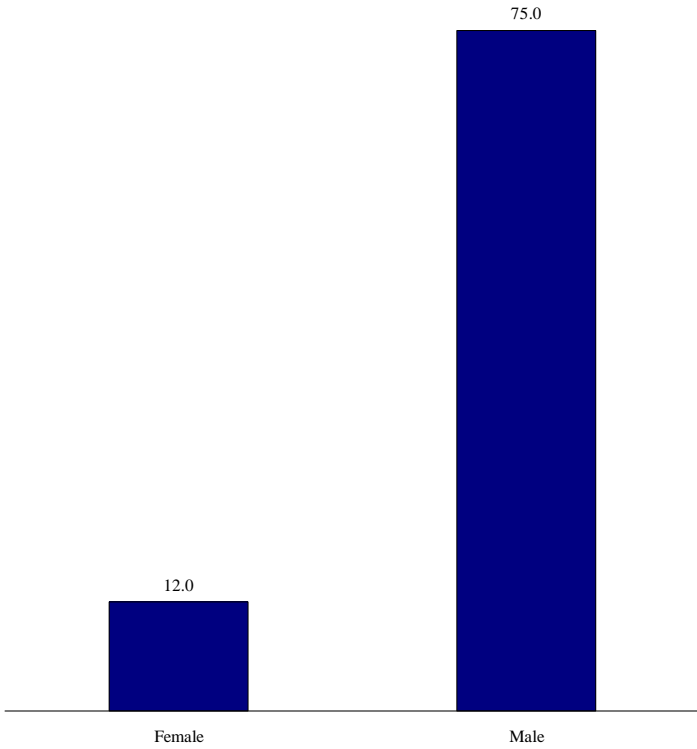
Males accounted for 85.5% of marijuana arrests. The marijuana arrest rate for males was 525% higher than the arrest rate for females.

MARIJUANA ARRESTS BY SEX
1996 – 2006

Sex	Number	Percent	Rate
Female	27,556	14.5%	12.0
Male	162,702	85.5%	75.0
Total	190,258	100.0%	42.6

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Marijuana Arrest Rate by Sex 1996 - 2006



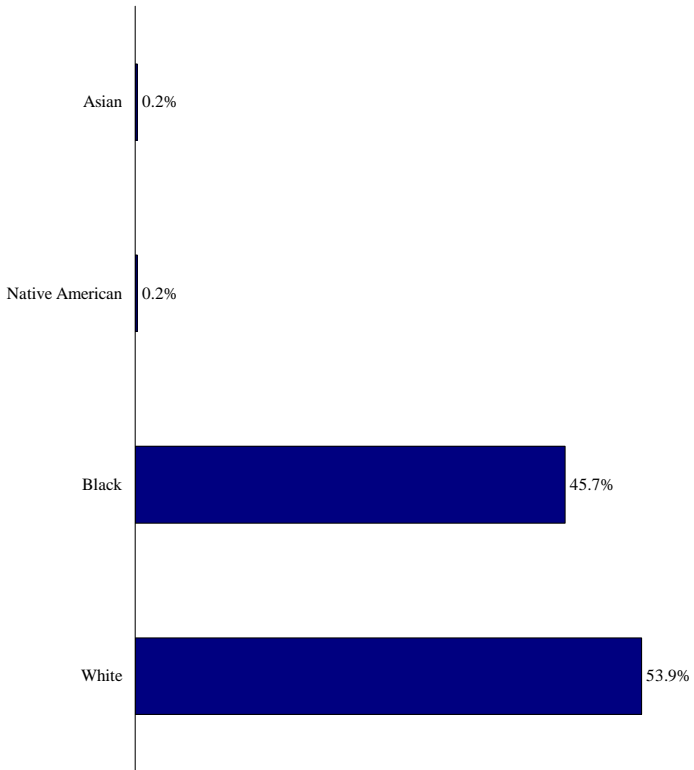
Whites accounted for 53.9% of all marijuana arrests, Blacks accounted for 45.7%.

**MARIJUANA ARRESTS BY RACE
1996 – 2006**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	393	0.2%
Black	86,899	45.7%
Native American	414	0.2%
White	102,374	53.9%
Total	190,080	100.0%

Note: One hundred seventy eight arrestees were of unknown race.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Marijuana Arrests by Race 1996 - 2006



The marijuana arrest rate for Non-Whites was 84.5% higher than the marijuana arrest rate for Whites.

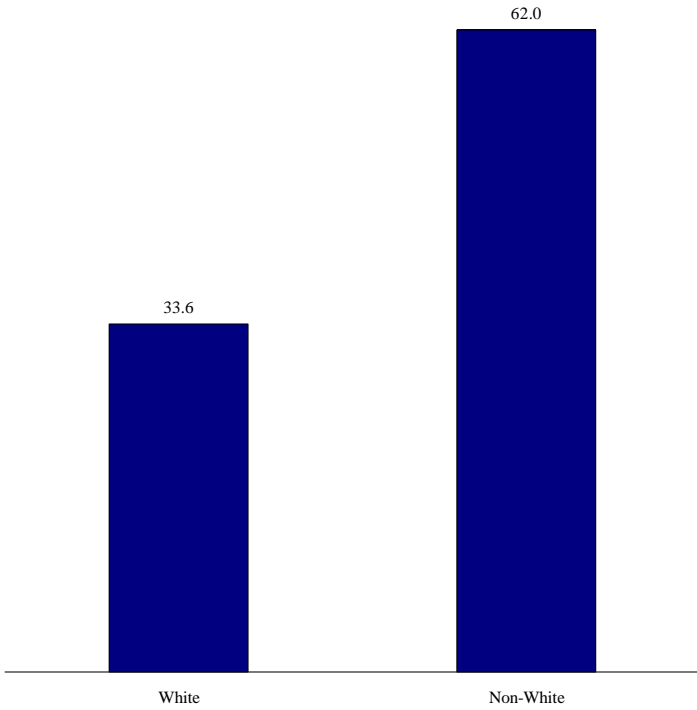
**MARIJUANA ARRESTS BY RACIAL GROUP
1996 – 2006**

Racial Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Non-White	87,706	46.1%	62.0
White	102,374	53.9%	33.6
Total	190,080	100.0%	42.6

Notes: One hundred seventy eight arrestees were of unknown race. The total rate was calculated on the basis of all arrestees. The Non-White racial group was defined as Asian, Black and Native American.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Marijuana Arrest Rate by Racial Group, 1996 - 2006



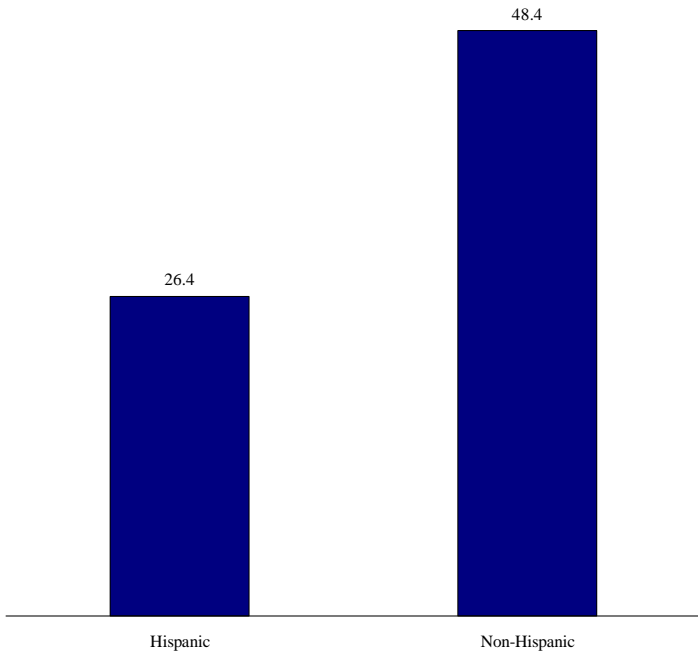
The marijuana arrest rate for Non-Hispanics was 83.3% higher than the marijuana arrest rate for Hispanics.

**MARIJUANA ARRESTS BY ETHNICITY
2004 – 2006**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Rate
Hispanic	1,113	1.8%	26.4
Non-Hispanic	59,800	98.2%	48.4
Total	60,913	100.0%	47.9

Notes: Two hundred seventy eight arrestees were of unknown ethnicity. The total rate was calculated on the basis of all arrestees. Due to the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in recent years, data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 were used
Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Marijuana Arrest Rate by Ethnicity 2004 - 2006



Positive tests for THC among inmates peaked in FY 04 with 3,310 positive tests.

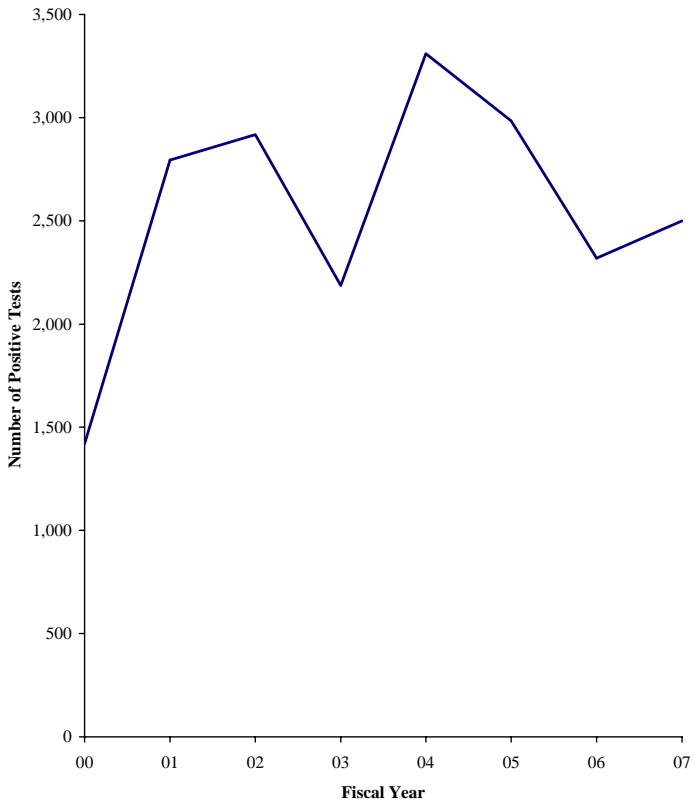
**PRISON DRUG TESTING
THC
FY 00 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
2000	1,420	97.9%
2001	2,795	97.9%
2002	2,918	98.2%
2003	2,186	97.3%
2004	3,310	97.0%
2005	2,984	96.8%
2006	2,319	93.8%
2007	2,500	94.6%

Notes: An inmate can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of inmates testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of TCH tests that detected TCH. THC is the active ingredient in marijuana and hashish.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Positive THC Tests in Prison



The number of positive THC test results among SCDPPPS offenders peaked at 14,592 in FY 01.

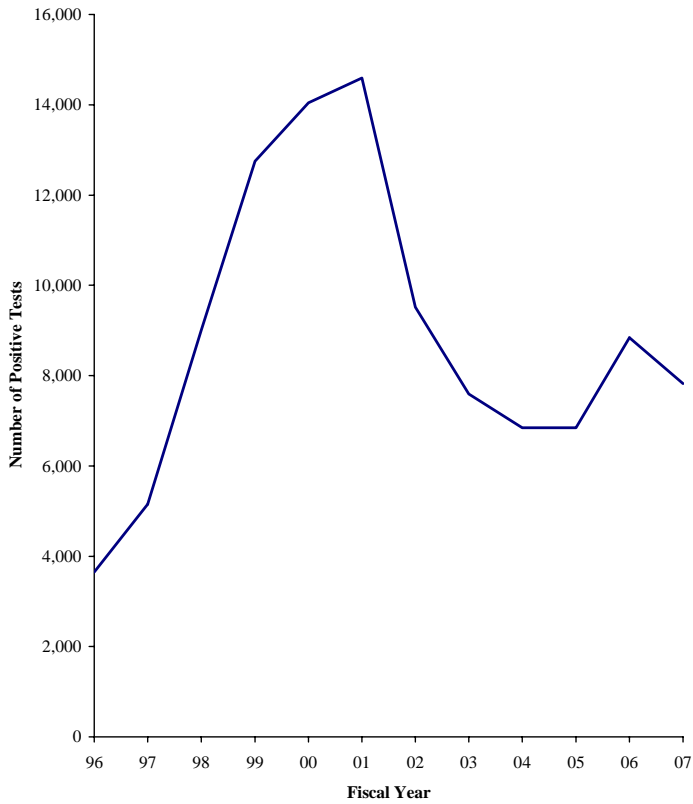
**SCDPPPS OFFENDER DRUG TESTING
THC**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
1996	3,647	28.6%
1997	5,153	28.7%
1998	9,008	26.9%
1999	12,753	21.9%
2000	14,041	21.2%
2001	14,592	20.8%
2002	9,518	23.5%
2003	7,593	25.5%
2004	6,843	28.4%
2005	6,845	31.4%
2006	8,839	29.3%
2007	7,822	28.7%

Notes: An offender can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of offenders testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of TCH tests that detected TCH. THC is the active ingredient in marijuana and hashish.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

Positive THC Tests - SCDPPPS



Methamphetamine/Amphetamine

Concerns about the spread of methamphetamine use along with concerns about the personal safety and environmental risks associated with its manufacture, have been the subject of widespread media attention in recent years. Based on SCIBRS drug arrest data Methamphetamine/amphetamine accounted for 1.8% of all drug arrests from 1996 through 2006, ranking fourth behind marijuana, crack cocaine and powder cocaine.

SCIBRS data also provided information concerning the circumstances and type of illegal activity associated with methamphetamine/amphetamine arrests, the demographic characteristics of people arrested for methamphetamine/amphetamine violations and arrest trends over time. Offender and inmate drug testing was another source of information concerning marijuana use. State level estimates from NSDUH concerning methamphetamine/amphetamine use were not available.

Arrests for meth & amphetamine offenses accounted for 1.8% of total drug arrests from 1996 through 2006. The number of arrests for meth & amphetamine increased from 61 in 1996 to 916 in 2006.

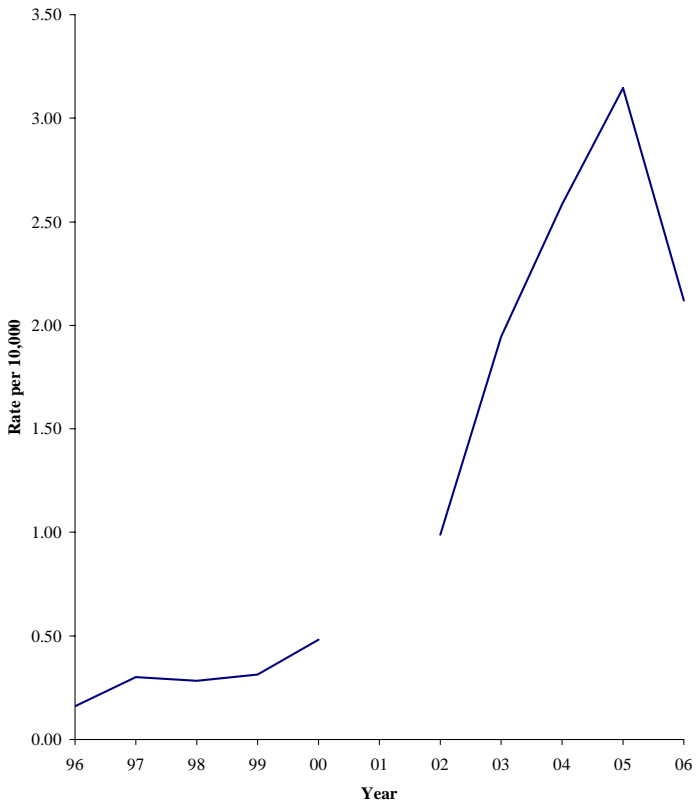
**METH & AMPHETAMINE ARRESTS
1996 – 2006**

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	61	0.16	
1997	116	0.30	+87.0%
1998	111	0.28	-5.8%
1999	125	0.31	+11.0%
2000	194	0.48	+53.3%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	406	0.99	+105.0%
2003	806	1.94	+96.6%
2004	1,085	2.58	+33.0%
2005	1,339	3.15	+21.8%
2006	916	2.12	-32.6%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Meth & Amphetamine Arrest Rate



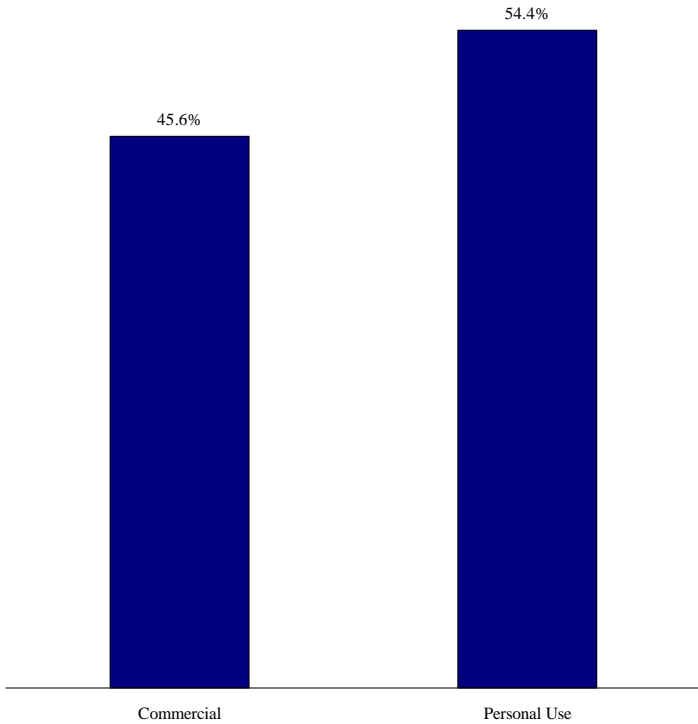
Personal use accounted for 54.4% of meth & amphetamine arrests, commercial activities accounted for 45.6%.

**METH & AMPHETAMINE ARRESTS
BY TYPE DRUG ACTIVITY
1996 – 2006**

Type Activity	Number	Percent
Commercial	2,450	45.6%
Buy/Receive	29	0.5%
Cultivate/Mfg/Publish	615	11.4%
Distribute/Sell	1,257	23.4%
Operating/ Assisting	5	0.1%
Transport/Import	544	10.1%
Personal Use	2,922	54.4%
Possession	2,867	53.4%
Use/Consume	55	1.0%
Total	5,372	100.0%

Notes: Categories in bold are major groupings, categories in regular type are sub-groupings. The categories Commercial and Personal Use were constructed for the purpose of this report and are not a standard SCIBRS category. The sub-group Distribute/Sell includes possession with intent to distribute. The sub-group Possession includes simple possession. The sum of the percents of the sub-groups for the Commercial category does not equal 45.6 due to rounding.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Meth & Amphetamine Arrests by Type Drug Activity, 1996 - 2006



Adults from 25 to 34 years old accounted for 35.2% of meth & amphetamine arrests and had the highest arrest rate among the age groups. The median age of people arrested for meth & amphetamine offenses was 30 years.

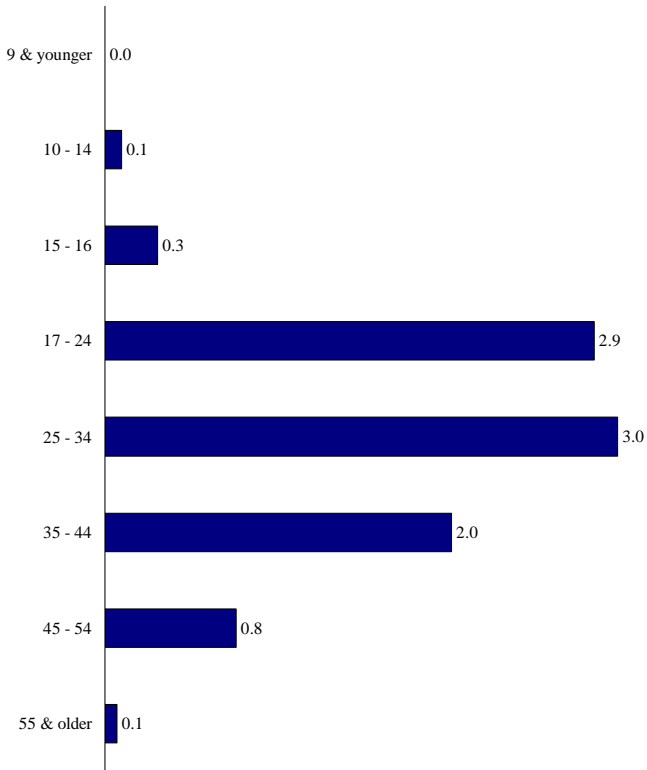
**METH & AMPHETAMINE ARRESTS BY AGE
1996 – 2006**

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Juvenile	71	1.3%	0.1
9 & younger	0	0.0%	0.0
10 - 14	31	0.6%	0.1
15 - 16	40	0.7%	0.3
Adult	5,299	98.7%	1.6
17 - 24	1,485	27.7%	2.9
25 - 34	1,888	35.2%	3.0
35 - 44	1,382	25.7%	2.0
45 - 54	475	8.8%	0.8
55 & older	69	1.3%	0.1
Total	5,370	100.0%	1.2

Notes: By South Carolina statute, 17 is generally the age of adult criminal responsibility. Two arrestees were missing age data. The total rate was calculated on the basis of all arrestees.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Meth & Amphetamine Arrest Rate by Age, 1996 - 2006



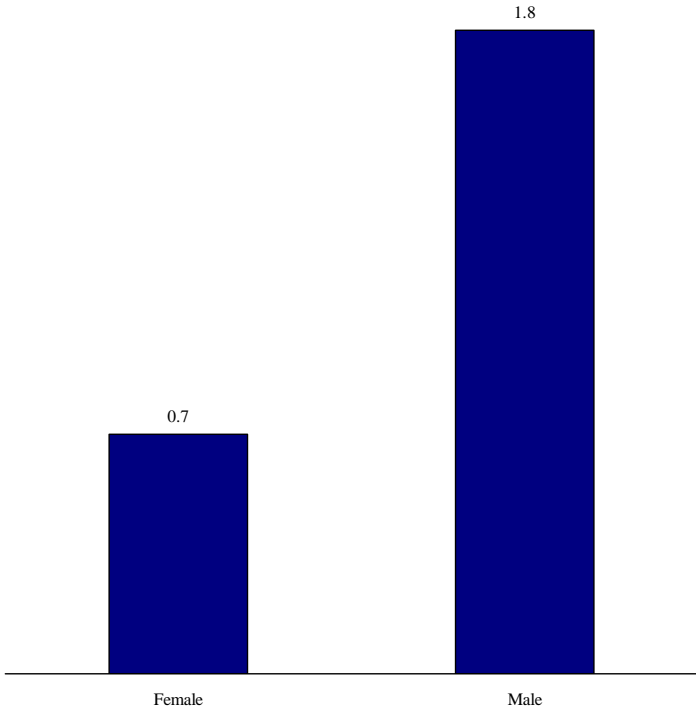
Males accounted for 71.7% of all meth & amphetamine arrests. The meth & amphetamine arrest rate for males was 157.1% higher than the rate for females.

**METH & AMPHETAMINE ARRESTS BY SEX
1996 – 2006**

Sex	Number	Percent	Rate
Female	1,519	28.3%	0.7
Male	3,853	71.7%	1.8
Total	5,372	100.0%	1.2

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Meth & Amphetamine Arrest Rate by Sex, 1996 - 2006



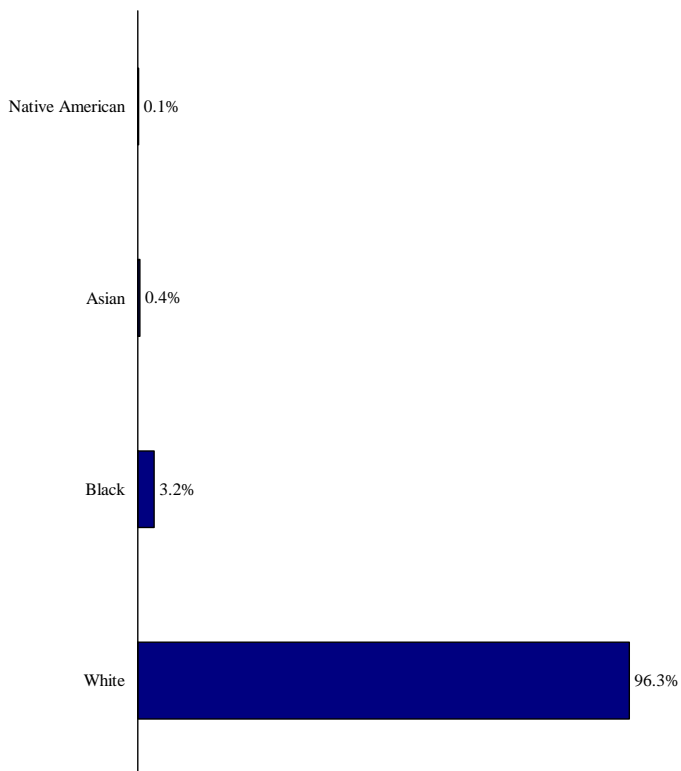
Whites accounted for 96.3% of all arrests for meth & amphetamine offenses.

**METH & AMPHETAMINE ARRESTS BY RACE
1996 – 2006**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	22	0.4%
Black	169	3.2%
Native American	6	0.1%
White	5,170	96.3%
Total	5,367	100.0%

Note: Five arrestees were of unknown race.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Meth & Amphetamine Arrests by Race, 1996 - 2006



The meth & amphetamine arrest rate for Whites was 17 times the meth & amphetamine arrest rate for Non-Whites.

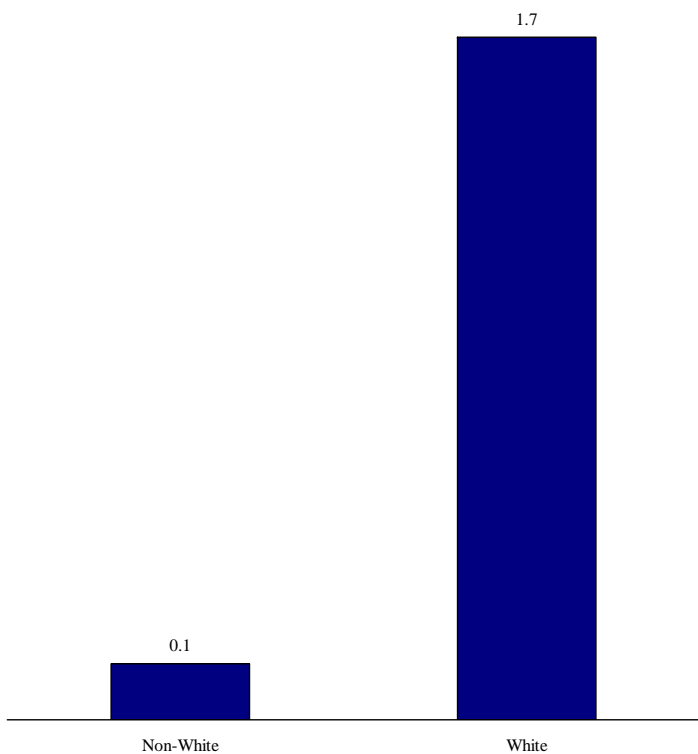
**METH & AMPHETAMINE ARRESTS
BY RACIAL GROUP
1996 – 2006**

Racial Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Non-White	197	3.7%	0.1
White	5,170	96.3%	1.7
Total	5,367	100.0%	1.2

Notes: Five arrestees were of unknown race. The total percent was calculated on the basis of all arrestees. The Non-White racial group was defined as Asian, Black and Native American.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Meth & Amphetamine Arrest Rate by Racial Group, 1996 - 2006



The meth & amphetamine arrest rate for Non-Hispanics was 44.4% higher than the meth & amphetamine arrest rate for Hispanics.

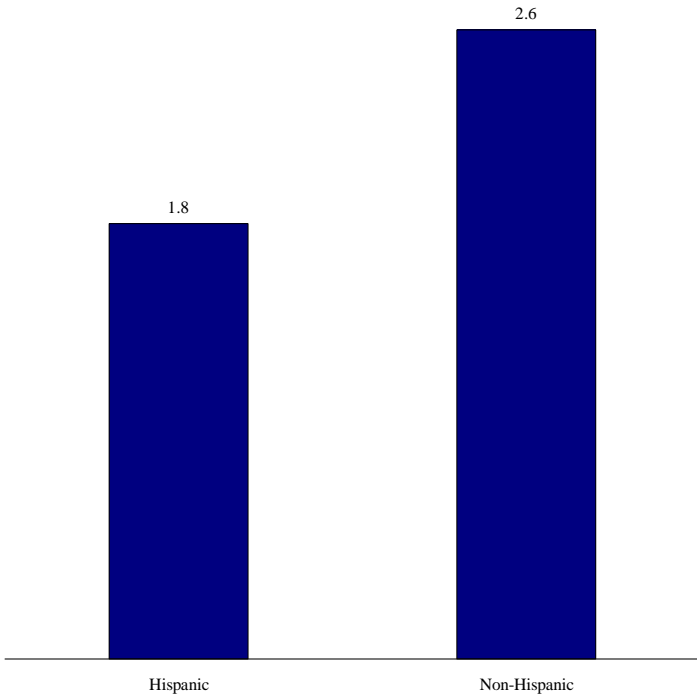
**METH & AMPHETAMINE ARRESTS
BY ETHNICITY
2004 – 2006**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Rate
Hispanic	74	2.2%	1.8
Non-Hispanic	3,229	97.8%	2.6
Total	3,303	100.0%	2.6

Notes: Thirty-seven arrestees were of unknown ethnicity. The total percent was calculated on the basis of all arrestees. Due to the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in recent years, data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 were used

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Meth & Amphetamine Arrest Rate by Ethnicity, 2004 - 2006



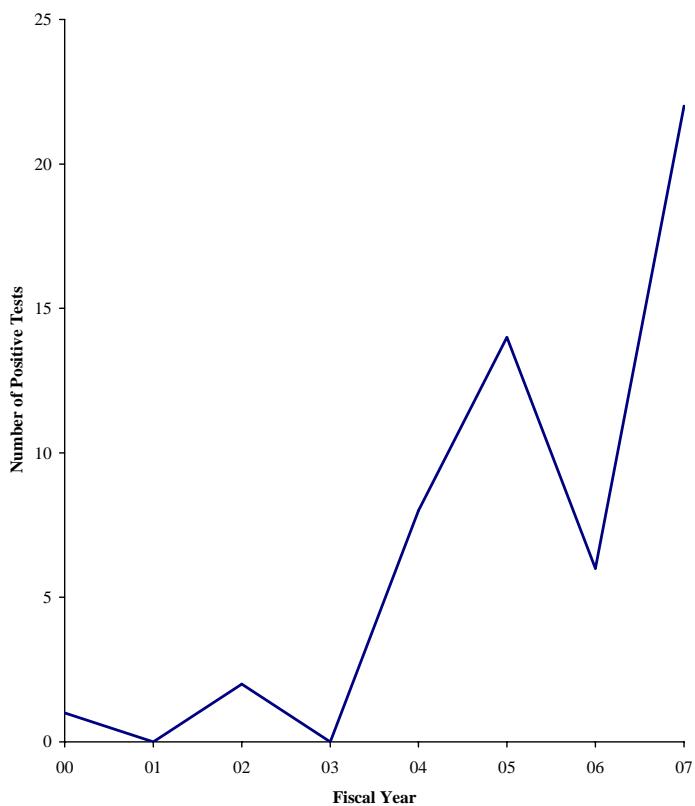
Positive tests for amphetamines among inmates were infrequent. The highest number of positive tests in a single year was 22 in FY 07.

**PRISON DRUG TESTING
AMPHETAMINES
FY 00 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
2000	1	3.8%
2001	0	0.0%
2002	2	2.7%
2003	0	0.0%
2004	8	42.1%
2005	14	30.4%
2006	6	11.8%
2007	22	24.4%

Notes: An inmate can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of inmates testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of amphetamine tests that detected amphetamine use.
Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Positive Amphetamine Tests in Prison



Positive test results for methamphetamine among inmates were uncommon. The highest number of positive tests in a single year was 15 in FY 07.

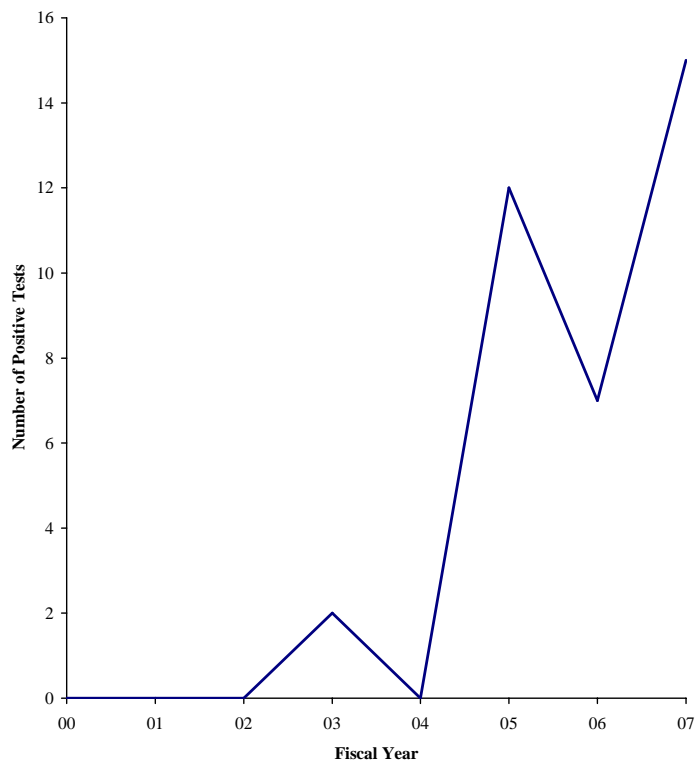
**PRISON DRUG TESTING
METHAMPHETAMINE
FY 00 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
2000	0	0.0%
2001	0	0.0%
2002	0	0.0%
2003	2	13.3%
2004	0	0.0%
2005	12	66.7%
2006	7	46.7%
2007	15	34.1%

Notes: An inmate can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of inmates testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of meth tests that detected meth use.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

**Positive Methamphetamine Tests in
Prison**



The number of positive meth & amphetamine test results among SCDPPPS offenders peaked at 874 in FY 07.

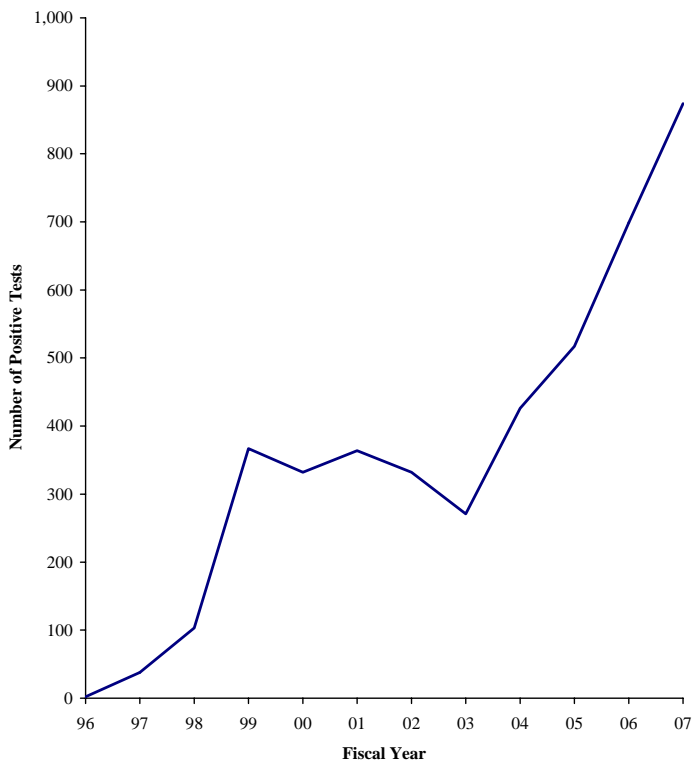
**SCDPPPS OFFENDER DRUG TESTING
METH & AMPHETAMINE**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
1996	2	0.7%
1997	38	3.3%
1998	103	1.0%
1999	367	1.1%
2000	332	0.8%
2001	364	0.8%
2002	332	1.6%
2003	271	1.9%
2004	426	3.7%
2005	517	4.6%
2006	699	3.8%
2007	874	4.3%

Notes: An offender can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of offenders testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of meth & amphetamine tests that detected meth & amphetamine use. Prior to FY 07, SCDPPPS test procedures did not distinguish between positive amphetamine and methamphetamine test results.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

**Positive Meth & Amphetamine Tests
SCDPPPS**



Opiates

The combined drug category opiates, accounted for 2% of drug arrests from 1996 through 2006. This category includes four specific SCIBRS drug categories: Heroin (0.6%), Morphine (0.05%), Opium (0.01%) and Other Narcotics (1.1%). The SCIBRS category Other Narcotics includes, but is not limited to: Codeine, Demarol, Dihydromorphinone, Dilaudid, Hydrocone, Percodan, Methadone, etc.).

SCIBRS data also provided information concerning the circumstances and type of illegal activity associated with opiate arrests, the demographic characteristics of the people arrested for opiate related offenses and opiate arrest trends over time. Offender and inmate drug testing was another source of information concerning opiate use. NSDUH estimates specifically for opiate use were not available at the state level.

Arrests for opiates accounted for 1.8% of all drug arrests from 1996 through 2006. The opiate arrest rate increased 234% from 1996 to 2006.

OPIATE ARRESTS

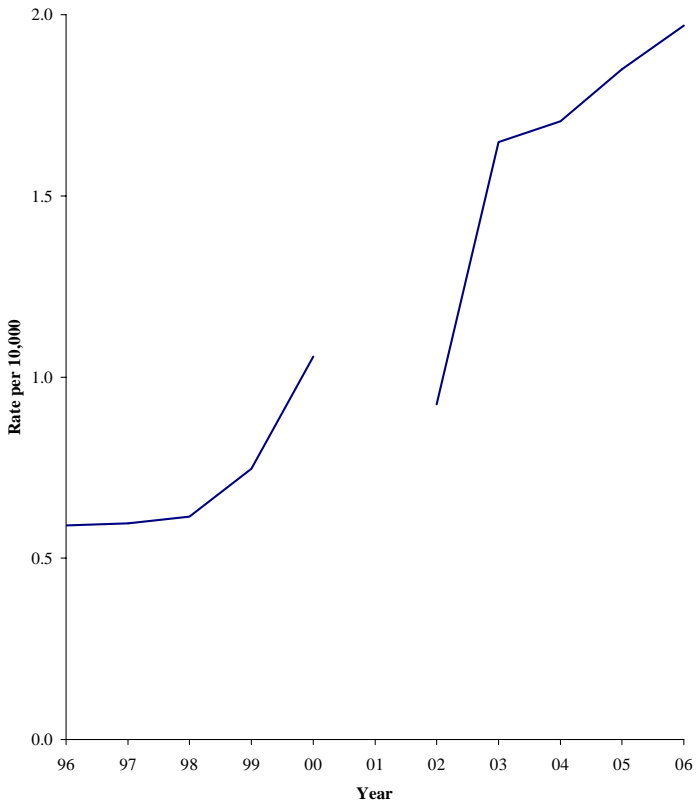
1996 – 2006

Year	Number	Rate	Annual Change
1996	224	0.59	
1997	230	0.60	+1.0%
1998	241	0.61	+3.2%
1999	297	0.75	+21.5%
2000	425	1.06	+41.4%
2001	Inc.	NA	NA
2002	380	0.93	-12.4%
2003	684	1.65	+78.3%
2004	716	1.71	+3.4%
2005	787	1.85	+8.4%
2006	851	1.97	+6.5%

Notes: Arrest data for 2001 were incomplete and therefore excluded from trend analyses. Annual change was based on the change in the arrest rate from one year to the next; the annual change for 2002 was based on the change from 2000 to 2002.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Opiate Arrest Rate



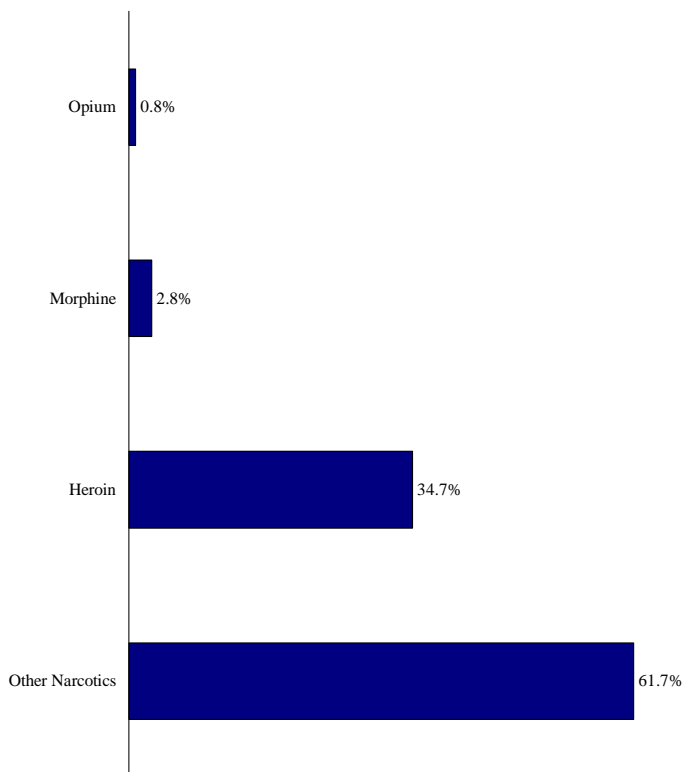
Four types of opiates are identified by SCIBRS: heroin, morphine, opium and other narcotics. Other narcotics accounted for 61.7% of all opiate arrests from 1996 through 2006.

**OPIATE ARRESTS BY TYPE OF OPIATE
1996 - 2006**

Type of Opiate	Number	Percent
Heroin	1,826	34.7%
Morphine	147	2.8%
Opium	44	0.8%
Other Narcotics	3,250	61.7%
Total	5,267	100.0%

Note: The category, Other Narcotics, includes but is not limited to Codeine, Demarol, Dihydromorphinone, Dilaudid, Hydrocone, Percodan and Methadone.
Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Opiate Arrests by Type of Opiate 1996 - 2006



Personal use accounted for 66.5% of opiate arrests, commercial offenses 33.5%.

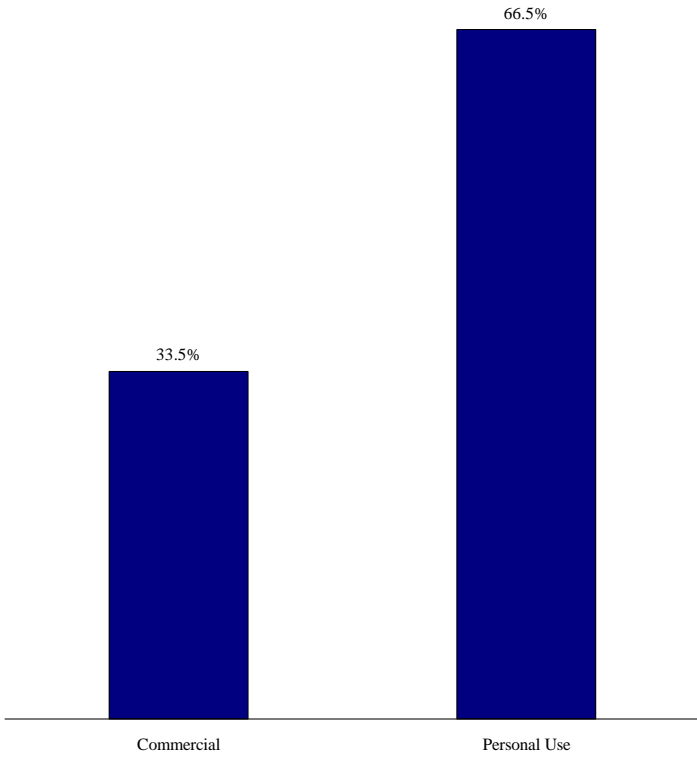
**OPIATE ARRESTS
BY TYPE ILLEGAL ACTIVITY
1996 – 2006**

Type Activity	Number	Percent
Commercial	1,765	33.5%
Buy/Receive	156	3.0%
Cultivate/Mfg/Publish	30	0.6%
Distribute/Sell	1,318	25.0%
Exploit Children	14	0.3%
Operating/ Assisting	15	0.3%
Transport/Import	232	4.4%
Personal Use	3,502	66.5%
Possession	3,411	64.8%
Use/Consume	91	1.7%
Total	5,267	100.0%

Notes: Categories in bold are major groupings, categories in regular type are sub-groupings. The categories Commercial and Personal Use were constructed for the purpose of this report and are not a standard SCIBRS category. The sub-group Distribute/Sell includes possession with intent to distribute. The sub-group Possession includes simple possession. The sum of the percents of the sub-groups for the Commercial category does not equal 33.5 due to rounding.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Opiate Arrests by Type Drug Activity, 1996 - 2006



Young adults from 17 to 24 years old accounted for 27% of opiate arrests and had the highest opiate arrest rate among the age groups. The median age of people arrested for opiate offenses was 31 years.

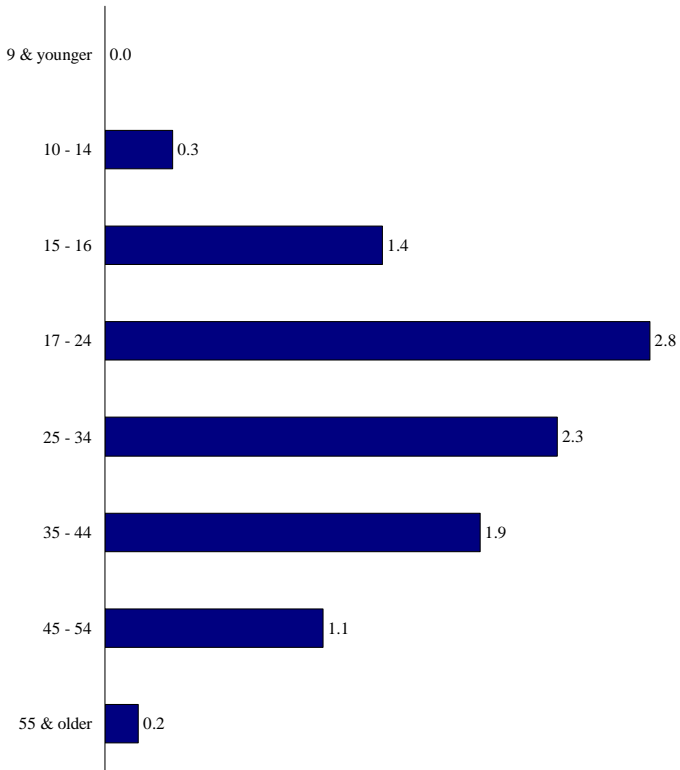
**OPIATE ARRESTS BY AGE
1996 – 2006**

Age Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Juvenile	289	5.5%	0.3
9 & younger	0	0.0%	0.0
10 - 14	108	2.1%	0.3
15 - 16	181	3.4%	1.4
Adult	4,970	94.5%	1.5
17 - 24	1,418	27.0%	2.8
25 - 34	1,427	27.1%	2.3
35 - 44	1,282	24.4%	1.9
45 - 54	676	12.9%	1.1
55 & older	167	3.2%	0.2
Total	5,259	100.0%	1.2

Notes: By South Carolina statute, 17 is generally the age of adult criminal responsibility. Eight arrestees were missing age data. The total percent was calculated on the basis of all arrestees. The sum of the percents for the adult age groups does not equal 94.5 due to rounding.

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Opiate Arrest Rate by Age 1996 - 2006



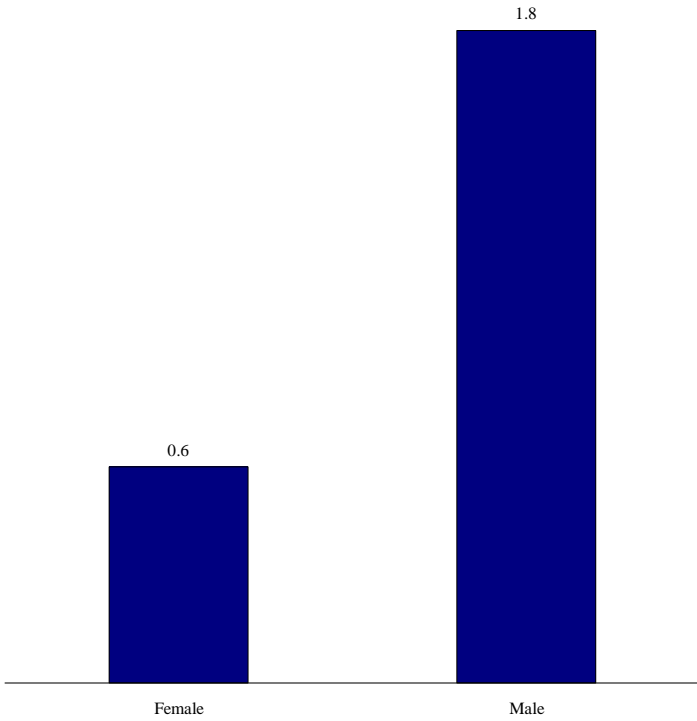
***Males accounted for 74% of all opiate arrests.
The opiate arrest rate for males was 200%
higher than the opiate arrest rate for females.***

**OPIATE ARRESTS BY SEX
1996 – 2006**

Sex	Number	Percent	Rate
Female	1,367	26.0%	0.6
Male	3,900	74.0%	1.8
Total	5,267	100.0%	1.2

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Opiate Arrest Rate by Sex 1996 - 2006



Whites accounted for 67.6% of all opiate arrests, Blacks accounted for 32.1%.

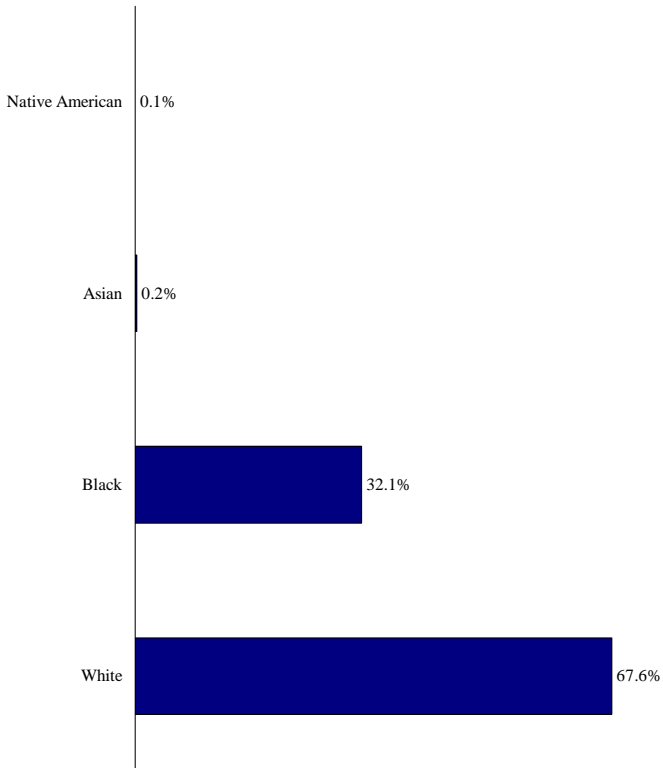
**OPIATE ARRESTS BY RACE
1996 – 2006**

Race	Number	Percent
Asian	12	0.2%
Black	1,687	32.1%
Native American	5	0.1%
White	3,555	67.6%
Total	5,259	100.0%

Notes: Eight arrestees were of unknown race. The total rate was calculated on the basis of all arrestees.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS.

Opiate Arrests by Race 1996 - 2006



The opiate arrest rate was the same for Non-Whites and Whites.

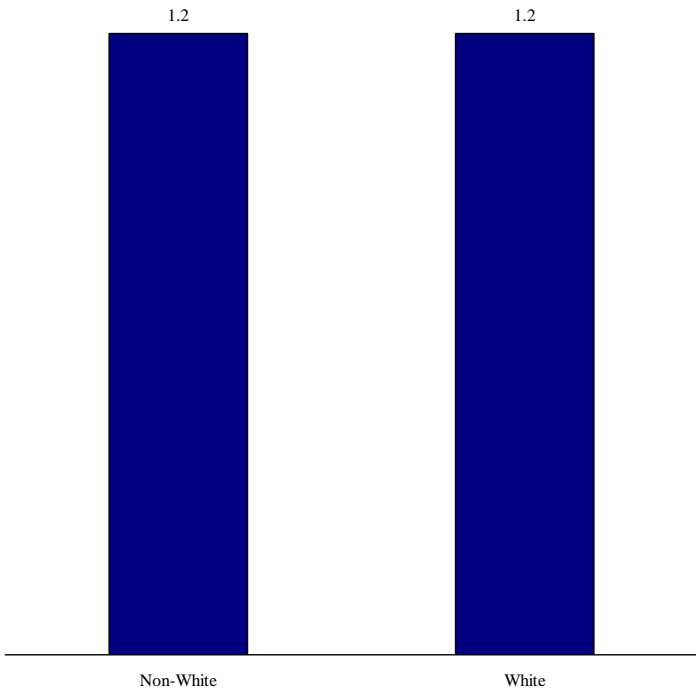
**OPIATE ARRESTS
BY RACIAL GROUP
1996 – 2006**

Racial Group	Number	Percent	Rate
Non-White	1,704	32.4%	1.2
White	3,555	67.6%	1.2
Total	5,259	100.0%	1.2

Notes: Eight arrestees were of unknown race. The Non-White racial group consists of Asian, Black and Native American. The total rate was calculated on the basis of all arrestees.

Source: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Opiate Arrest Rate by Racial Group 1996 - 2006



The opiate arrest rate for Non-Hispanics was 171.4% higher than the opiate arrest rate for Hispanics.

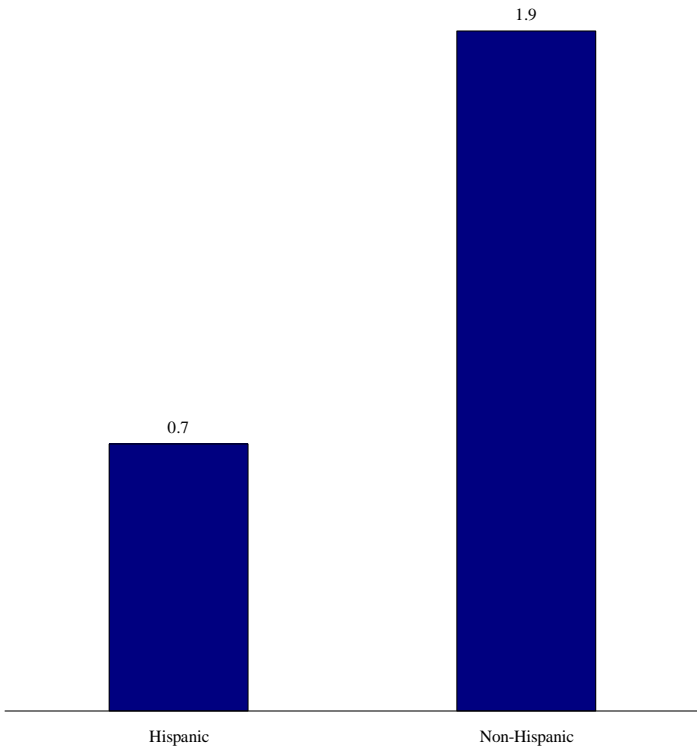
**OPIATE ARRESTS BY ETHNICITY
2004 – 2006**

Ethnicity	Number	Percent	Rate
Hispanic	31	1.3%	0.7
Non-Hispanic	2,315	98.7%	1.9
Total	2,346	100.0%	1.8

Notes: Eight arrestees were of unknown ethnicity. The total rate was calculated on the basis of all arrestees. Due to the rapid growth of the Hispanic population in recent years, data for 2004, 2005 and 2006 were used

Sources: SLED, SCIBRS; ORS, population estimates.

Opiate Arrest Rate by Ethnicity 2004 - 2006



The highest number of positive test results for opiates in prison during a single year was 18 in FY 01.

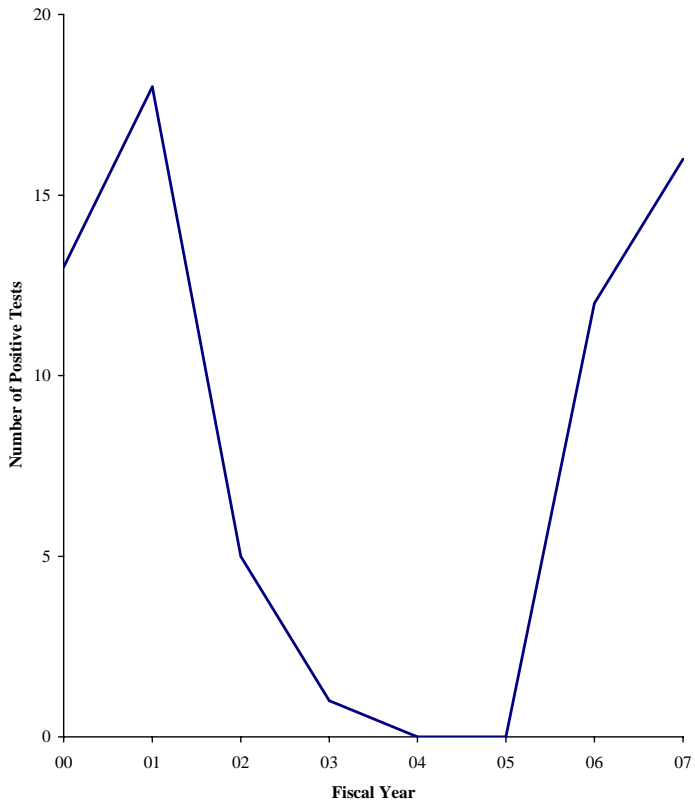
**PRISON DRUG TESTING
OPIATES
FY 00 – FY 07**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
2000	13	2.8%
2001	18	4.9%
2002	5	4.7%
2003	1	3.4%
2004	0	0.0%
2005	0	0.0%
2006	12	24.5%
2007	16	22.5%

Notes: An inmate can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of inmates testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of opiate tests that detected opiate use.

Source: SCDC, inmate records.

Positive Opiate Tests in Prison



The number of positive opiate test results among SCDPPPS offenders peaked at 912 in FY 01.

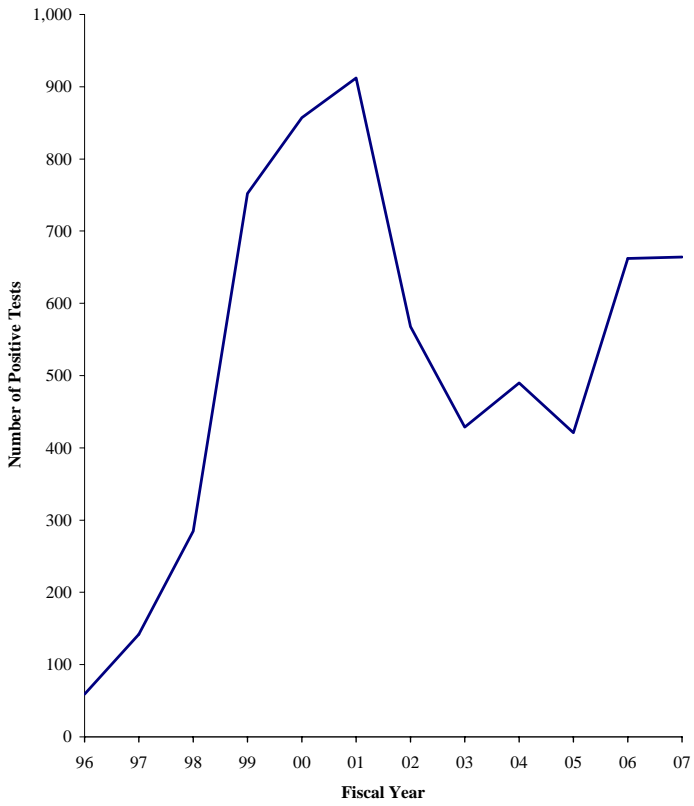
**SCDPPPS OFFENDER DRUG TESTING
OPIATES**

Fiscal Year	Positive Test Results	Percent Positive
1996	59	2.1%
1997	142	2.1%
1998	285	1.7%
1999	752	1.9%
2000	857	1.8%
2001	912	1.8%
2002	568	2.6%
2003	429	2.8%
2004	490	3.8%
2005	421	3.4%
2006	662	3.6%
2007	664	4.2%

Notes: An offender can be tested more than once. A positive test result reflects the total number of positive tests, not the number of offenders testing positive. Percent positive reflects the proportion of opiate tests that detected opiate use.

Source: SCDPPPS, offender records.

Positive Opiate Tests - SCDPPPS



Summary

There are several noteworthy findings in this report. The first is the rate of increase in illegal drug use by several measures. The drug arrest rate increased 46.8% from 1996 through 2006. Admissions to prison of inmates with drug offenses increased 45.1% from FY 00 through FY 07. Admissions of offenders with drug offenses to community corrections supervisions increased 33.1% from FY 96 through FY 07. The drug related emergency room discharge rate increased 66.9% from 1996 through 2006. The single indicator of decreasing drug use was the in-patient drug related discharge rate dropping 20.3% from 1996 through 2006.

Another finding of note is the degree to which two drugs, marijuana and cocaine dominate illegal drug use. Marijuana accounted for the majority of drug arrests and the majority of positive drug tests among both prison inmates and offenders under community correctional supervision. According to NSDUH estimates, marijuana constituted the major portion of illicit drug use and 8.8% of the state population over 12 has used marijuana in the previous year. The marijuana arrest rate increased 37.9% from 1996 to 2006.

Cocaine ranks second to marijuana as the drug of choice using drug arrests, inmate drug testing and community corrections drug testing as measures. User survey estimates are that 2.2% of the state population over 12 has used cocaine in the past year. One of the more controversial aspects of cocaine use has involved racially based use patterns associated with crack and powder cocaine. Based on drug arrest rates, Non-White

arrestees are disproportionately represented among cocaine arrests, crack cocaine arrests and powder cocaine arrests. Among these measures, the ratio of crack cocaine arrest rates for White arrestees to Non-White arrestees (1 to 10.5) is especially striking.

Also striking is the trend concerning the type of cocaine used in cocaine arrests. The cocaine arrest rate increased 22.8% from 1996 to 2006. However, that increase masked a 4.8% decrease in the crack cocaine arrest rate and a 232.8% increase in the powder cocaine arrest rate. As another indication of this trend of increased powder use, in 1996 powder cocaine arrests accounted for 11.6% of all cocaine arrests. By 2006, the percentage of powder cocaine arrests was 31.4%.

The small number of methamphetamine arrests should also be noted. The total number of meth/amphetamine arrests accounted for 1.8% of drug arrests during the 1996 to 2006 time period. Although the arrest rate increased dramatically over that time span, it was primarily because there were very few arrests in 1996. Nevertheless, it should be noted that there was a steady pattern of large annual increases in the arrest rate from 2001 through 2005 (based on a larger volume of arrests), followed by a large decrease in 2006.

Demographically, young adults, males and members of racial minorities were disproportionately represented among illegal drug users. With the exception of methamphetamine/amphetamine arrests, the highest arrest rates were found among young adults from 17 to 24 years of age. Similar results were reported by user survey estimates, with young adults in the 18 to 25 year old range having the highest illegal drug use rates. This

pattern also held true for admissions to community corrections, with young adults age 17 to 24, constituting the largest groups. Among juveniles, although the overall drug arrest was low, the drug arrest rate among juveniles peaked among 15 and 16 year olds. Even so, the drug arrest rate for 15 to 16 year olds did not approach the rate for the 17 to 24 year old age group.

Males accounted for 83.8% of all drug arrests, 91.6% of prison drug admissions and 84.4% of community corrections supervision drug admissions. Although males were disproportionately represented by all measures of illegal drug use, there were two instances worth noting where male representation was not quite so disproportionate. Females accounted for 26% of the arrests for opiates and 28.3% of all arrests for methamphetamine/amphetamine.

Minority racial groups were disproportionately represented among illegal drug users by several measures. The overall drug arrest rate for Non-Whites was 2.5 times that of Whites, 78.4% of prison drug admissions were Black inmates and 65.6% of community corrections drug admissions were Black. There were, however, exceptions to this pattern. The methamphetamine and amphetamine arrest rate for Whites greatly exceeded (by a ratio of 17 to 1) the arrest rate for Non-Whites, and the opiate arrest rate was the same for Whites and Non-Whites.

Although minority racial groups were disproportionately represented among drug arrestees and admissions to prison and community corrections supervision, this pattern did not hold true for ethnicity. The drug arrest rate for Non-Hispanics was 69.3% higher than the drug

arrest rate for Hispanics. Similarly, Hispanics made up less than 1% of prison admissions. It should be noted that the nature of the Hispanic population in South Carolina makes interpretation of the findings difficult. Although the Hispanic population is relatively small, 3.5% in 2006, growth in recent years has been dramatic.

A problematic issue identified in the course of the analysis, with important implications for future research, is the inability to use CDR codes to identify the specific drug involved. This problem does not reflect a defect on the part of the CDR codes themselves, quite the contrary. The CDR codes accurately reflect the state statutes as they now exist, however the state statutes themselves often make it impossible to determine the specific illegal drug involved. This is best reflected by the fact that of all the General Sessions court cases filed from FY 01 through FY 07 in which one or more particular drugs were named as an element of the offense, only 20.6% of the cases filed could be used to identify a specific drug. The remainder of the CDR codes involved offenses that combined more than one drug as part of the offense. As a case in point, the leading offense among court filings during that same time period was manufacture or possession of other substance in Schedule I, II III or flunitrazepam with intent to distribute, first offense. Similarly, the leading drug offense among admissions to community corrections supervision was possession of less than one gram of ice, crank or crack cocaine, first offense.

Perhaps the most salient finding was the sheer volume of numbers involved in illegal drug use, regardless of the specific measure used. The number of drug arrests

in a single year ranged from a low of more than twenty one thousand to a high of more than thirty eight thousand. The total numbers for court cases, prison admissions and admissions to community correctional supervision were equally impressive. Drug testing of offenders under community corrections supervision numbered in the tens of thousands year after year. The volume of inpatient and emergency room services was equally impressive as was the associated costs. The magnitude of estimated use was perhaps the most impressive measure, with estimated illegal drug users in South Carolina numbering in the hundreds of thousands.

Finally, it is important to discuss the risk of apprehension. Despite the large volume of drug arrests, comparing arrest rates to NSDUH user estimates, it is apparent that the risk of detection for illegal drug use is low. NSDUH estimated that an average of 318,818 South Carolinians over 12 used marijuana in the previous year and 80,247 used cocaine in the previous year. During that same time period (2005 – 2006), an average of 21,039 marijuana arrests and 10,232 cocaine arrests were made. Using these findings to construct an indicator of risk, the ratio of arrests to users was 1 to 15.2 for marijuana and 1 to 7.8 for cocaine. Applying the percent of arrests for personal use activities (marijuana, 90.7%; cocaine, 64.7%) during that time period, the ratio of arrests to users is to 1 to 16.7 for personal use of marijuana and 1 to 12.1 for personal use of cocaine. These are probably high end risk estimates, since they do not account for frequency of use, individuals being arrested more than once and other factors. In any case, such low risk levels do not seem likely to provide a credible deterrence to illegal drug use.

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Unpublished data provided by:

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South Carolina Budget & Control Board, Office of Research and Statistics. State Data Warehouse – All Payer System.

South Carolina Department of Corrections. Inmate record files.

South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services. Offender record files.

State Law Enforcement Division. South Carolina Incident Based Reporting System data files.

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